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# DAILY REPORT

COMPLETED
ORIGINAL

# LATIN AMERICA

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LA OPINION SAYS JUNTA PICKS VIDELA AS 'FOURTH MAN'

FY180055Y Buenos Aires LA OPINION in Spanish 17 Mar 78 p 1 FY

[Text] Lt Gen [illegible]e Rafael Videla will reportedly become the "fourth man" of the present political-military process on 1 October, a few hours after formalizing his retirement as commander in chief of the army, to continue holding the presidency of the country, for a 4-year term, as was learned last night at the end of a plenum of high-ranking officers which included more than 60 generals in active service, at the Liberatador Building.

According to the impression of reliable sources, General Videla allegedly asserted that his successor would assume office on 1 October 1978, after he made clear that before that--at mid-year--the respective powers of the military junta and the president must be made perfectly clear.

The above definitions took shape last night in the midst of growing political speculation which began to become acute the week before when it was learned that the army had submitted to the junta--and through it to the army and the air force--copies of a draft containing guidelines for a proposal for national unity, while a rumor began to spread that Gen Roberto Viola (army chief of staff) would be appointed army commander.

In yesterday's plenum of generals, General Videla gave an outline of the army proposal, a working document to be used as a basis and to be completed and agreed upon internally within the army and with the other forces.

The army commander in chief reportedly specified that:

--The present process does not have deadlines but objectives;

--The government must maintain the leadership [of the process] in order to expand its field of action to reach the objectives of the national reorganization process;

--The inherent intervention of the armed forces in the process which must lead to democracy will be assured;

--Dialog, as a tool of the plan for political action, will be implemented with representative personalities of the sectors and tendencies of the national community; only the subversive and the corrupt will be excluded;

--The incorporation of civilians in the government will show the country the civilian-military coexistence;

--The process toward the implementation of a full democracy will not be a single action but a gradual action through progressive stages; this will mean--according to General Videla--a long period of civilian-military transition;

Although the commander in chief did not mention yesterday the ways through which an eventual civilian participation in the government would be channeled, it was learned that General Videla's military cabinet is considering the possibility of establishing a council of state and reestablishing the Social and Economic Council.

In evaluating the progress of the government--ministry by ministry--General Videla reportedly indicated by way of example that the action of the governors is not balanced. Some did better than others in obtaining the people's support because, in addition to having a correct administration, they surrounded themselves with representative persons from the local sectors. Videla reportedly also indicated mistakes in appointing some intendents who had no prestige in municipal sectors and therefore could not obtain popular support.

At the end of his statement, Videla made a call to the generals present regarding the priority need to consolidate, above any other consideration, the internal unity of the army and of this force with the other forces, since the best prospect for success of the process lies in this unity.

When the plenum of generals ended after 2100, sources close to the air force indicated last night that by the end of March or early in April the brigadiers will meet to study the political proposal that the army will submit to the junta. The source said: "This proposal will allow firming up the new scheme of power by September 1978, with the appointment of what has been called the 'fourth man' to hold the position of president, assisted by the military junta, made up of the commanders in chief of the three forces." Something similar was reportedly discussed by the navy admirals yesterday at the Libertad Building. According to an undenied version in the morning paper LA NACION, the navy has indicated that the draft of the navy proposal is dated 13 September 1977.

## Army Condemns LA OPINION

FY180222Y Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Mar 78 FY

[Communique issued by the army commander in chief and signed by Lt Col Jorge Ortega, press and broadcasting secretary of the army's 6th Department in Buenos Aires, on 17 March]

[Text] Regarding the interpretation made by the newspaper LA OPINION, in an article published today, to leaks which reportedly circulated after the meeting of generals held on Tuesday, 16 March, the army commander in chief hereby confirms what has been stated in the appropriate official communique and states that it is risky to disclose prematurely [adelantar] dates and appointments falling within the jurisdiction of the military junta.

## BRIGADE CHIEF VOWS VIGILANCE ON CHILEAN BORDER

FY181306Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 18 Mar 78 FY

[Text] Mendoza--Brig Gen (Jose Gonzalez Castro), commander of the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade, has asserted that "we will keep constant watch, as long as there is no final solution of the border problem with Chile in the south, particularly taking into account that this brigade is basically the one which will be the most involved in that area." The high-ranking officer made these remarks during the celebration of the anniversary of the unit, which is stationed 1,100 km west of Buenos Aires.

DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH CHILE BROKEN ON 17 MARCH

PY172132Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2125 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 17 Mar--Bolivia reported today the breaking of diplomatic relations with Chile. Relations between the two countries had been reestablished in 1975, after an interruption of almost 3 years. As of 1975 negotiations have been carried out seeking an outlet to the sea for Bolivia, but the negotiations have become almost stagnated over the past few months.

Adriazola Speaks on Break

PY180312Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpts] At a press conference called by Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola Valda to announce the breaking of diplomatic relations with Chile, Adriazola Valda stated that President Augusto Pinochet does not guarantee a clear solution to the situation confronted by Bolivia.

The Bolivian Government reserved its right to multilateral efforts at both the international and regional level before submitting its maritime request again to the UN Security Council, according to the Foreign Ministry's official statement. Our representatives will extensively convey the basis and the extent of the negotiations which Bolivia began on 26 August 1975, he added, mentioning the unyielding right Bolivia has to return to the Pacific Ocean and to recover its maritime sovereignty, of which Bolivia was brutally deprived through an unjustifiable war of conquest.

General Adriazola read point 3 of the official document announcing the breaking of diplomatic relations with Chile. Later, he read the text of this: The Chilean Government has abandoned the essential commitment which was the historic explanation for resuming the dialog with Bolivia. The foreign minister explained that the decision of the Bolivian armed forces government was in response to a careful review of the situation and to the advice of reliable foreign affairs specialists.

In announcing the government's decision, Adriazola Valda recalled a recent statement President Banzer made to the effect that the Chilean Government did not respect Bolivia's good faith, a faith which led to resuming diplomatic relations and reopening the dialog on the maritime issue.

This breaking of diplomatic relations which the government announced in La Paz today occurs as General Augusto Pinochet's administration is experiencing a difficult border conflict with Argentina over territorial possession of the southern area of the continent. Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola Valda said:

[begin Adriazola recording] On 17 March 1978 the Bolivian Government of the armed forces decided to break diplomatic relations with the Chilean Government. The Chilean representatives in Bolivia have just been notified of this decision. To understand the extent of this measure, it must be compared with its immediate antecedent--the resuming of relations which was agreed to on 8 February 1975.

On that occasion, the reopening of the normal channels of bilateral relations between Bolivia and Chile was justified, since the two governments had decided at the highest level, as an expression of the desire for mutual understanding, to give the resumed dialog a firm and essential goal in the historical sense--to seek through frank negotiations a just and durable solution to the landlocked situation which was imposed on Bolivia 99 years ago, by means of a fully sovereign outlet to the Pacific Ocean. [end recording]

The foreign minister read part of the official document which provides for the breaking of our relations with Chile:

[begin Adriazola recording] During the time elapsed since then, the Bolivian Government made the best effort to find basic conditions and just terms for the solution of the century-old Bolivian problem. After 3 years, however, disregarding this effort, ignoring the expectations of a whole country and the expression of high pan-American solidarity, the Chilean Government maintains, without any flexibility, its original (?conditions). Thus, what had been the basis for an agreement was turned into a nonnegotiable impasse, a situation which runs counter to the spirit of any negotiation process, ignores the spirit of the Charana document and discards any possibility for progress toward an arrangement. Several steps taken on Bolivian initiative, through sending an ambassador on a special mission to Santiago, also indicate that the Chilean Government has abandoned the essential commitment which historically explained the reopening of the dialog, which, I repeat, was justified by the decision to use dialog as the fundamental means of our sovereign return to the sea. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Adriazola then said: In the face of these events, after exhausting all the instances and all efforts to persuade the Chilean Government to adopt an attitude which would allow [words indistinct] to progress toward the solution proposed by Bolivia, the Bolivian armed forces government considered it its duty to break diplomatic relations with Chile since, as long as Chile maintains its inflexible position, these relations have lost all significance for the Bolivian people. It must be stated that this decision grew out of a careful review of the situation and was adopted after a calm review and advice from reliable foreign affairs specialists. This decision is consistent with the normal behavior of the government headed by Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez. This decision is also based on the undeniable good faith shown by the government in the course of maritime negotiations, and considering, as stated before, that no one is to blame for the lack of respect for this good faith. The Charana negotiations had the healthful purpose of seeking a solution for the great national problem, since serving the high interests of the fatherland must not be restricted by fear of the uncertainty of the result. It has been our continued concern not to mix the most fervent national desire with demagoguery or occasional arguments, which are so frequent in internal politics.

We denounce once more the aggression against the geographic patrimony of Bolivia by changing the course of the Lauca River, a damage whose reparation was firmly maintained during the maritime negotiations.

We also believe that systematically hindering the solution of Bolivia's landlocked situation cannot be a foreign policy goal, since that attitude means another type of aggression, one directed against constructive agreements which would lead to undeniable benefits, such as mutual confidence between neighboring countries and the sharing of the ideals of peace, development and integration within the American community.

We fervently call on all Bolivians to express, above political differences or others of a temporary nature, their strong will to achieve our sovereign return to the sea, since history tells us that the causes which win are those which are backed by a strong national will.

The day will come when Bolivia, because of the unbending decision of its people, will return to the Pacific Ocean, because no country can be permanently landlocked, because no country [word indistinct] the urgency of solidarity, because the international consensus supports the fairness of our cause, and because Bolivians have the virtue of becoming stronger in the face of adversity.

This is the document which was issued by the government today regarding the breaking of diplomatic relations with Chile.

Free Transit Agreement Abrogated

PY181850Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1818 GMT 18 Mar 78 PY

[Text] La Paz, 18 March--It was officially announced here today that the Bolivian-Chilean agreement of free transit, signed in February 1975, has been canceled after the severing of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Immigration Under Secretary Guido Strauss reported this to the local press and stated that until shortly before relations were broken off, permanent residence visas had been granted to 1,215 Chilean citizens, men, women and children. There are no official figures regarding temporary residence visas or regarding Chileans living in Bolivia with tourist visas, [illegible] citizens of the neighboring country who are in Bolivia without legal documents.

Outlet Quest Stymied Temporarily

PY181840Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1709 GMT 18 Mar 78 PY

[By Eduardo Perez Iribarne]

[Excerpts] La Paz, 18 Mar--Diplomatic circles were in agreement here today that the Bolivian decision to break off relations with Chile will bring the sea outlet negotiations to a standstill and has shown that there are no "magic formulas" like those sought by Presidents Hugo Banzer and Augusto Pinochet.

The meeting between the two presidents, held in the Bolivian border town of Charana on 8 February 1975, was called the "Charana Embrace" and it sought, in fact, "a magic formula of agreement on the highest level," the sources added.

A prominent Bolivian diplomat said this morning that "with Chile things have always started with promises and ended in failure."

Large political sectors of the opposition against President Banzer were in agreement in the last few hours on the "total failure of the 'Charana Embrace'."

The Bolivian public showed a favorable reaction to the severing of diplomatic relations, since it is convinced that "the Chileans do not want to solve our maritime problem."

Local observers stated, however, that the result of the "Charana Embrace" has been negative, because the three directly involved nations have not known how to find the road of pragmatic dialog on the problem.

There will now be a long interval in the Bolivian maritime negotiations, because the internal situation of the country which is busy with the preparations for the first general elections since 1966 will not allow any new developments before the election of the new president and congress.

But, the sources concluded, the period of Bolivian-Chilean negotiations which was begun by the "Charana embrace" has laid some important bases for the future: Chile offered a land corridor to Bolivia and, in principle, Peru accepted this formula with some reservations.

Politicians React to Break

PY181216Y La Paz Radio Cruz del Sur Network in Spanish 2330 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The government's announcement of breaking diplomatic relations with Chile was received with surprise and cautiousness by political and public opinion.

Former President Luis Adolfo Siles Salinas, asked about the decision made by the armed forces government, abstained from making a comment on the matter because he did not know the details, but said that he will make a statement within the next few hours. Siles Salinas was visiting schools where teachers union elections were being held.

Guillermo Jauregui Guachalla, a higher member of the National Revolutionary Movement, MNR, pointed out that the military government has finally decided to rectify the great mistake made in Charana.

The leader of the Socialist Party, Marcelo Quiroga Santa Cruz, promised to make an announcement within the next few hours. Quiroga Santa Cruz said that this is a very serious matter and that it is necessary to know the basis of the document released by the Foreign Ministry.

Labor leader Juan Lechin Oquendo said that he also did not know the reasons why the government decided to break diplomatic relations with Chile. He said, however, that he plans to make a statement very soon.

LABOR MINISTER STATES VIEWS ON LABOR CENTRAL

PY161857Y Sucre Radio La Plata in Spanish 1630 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The Labor Ministry has stated that the Bolivian Labor Central [COB], is led by self-appointed leaders, and for that reason has not been recognized by the government. The Labor Ministry under secretary added that COB is not complying with legal requirements which call for the democratization of its member organizations.

TOP SCIENTISTS DISCUSS ANGRA 1'S SAFETY

PY162042Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 34 PY

[Text] Guaruja, Sao Paulo--"If these kinds of shortcomings persist, we will inevitably have a repetition of the Hiroshima catastrophe." This statement was made by Jose Goldenberg, president of the Brazilian Society of Physics and director of the Sao Paulo University Physics Institute, commenting yesterday on the report of 71 accidents in only 5 months in the construction of the Angra Dos Reis energy complex, where the first three Brazilian nuclear plants are being built.

Goldenberg, who is participating in the "Energy and Development in the Americas" symposium, which was inaugurated yesterday in Guaruja, expressed "surprise at the lack of security in the nuclear program." The lack of security in the construction of Angra Dos Reis also surprised both the Brazilian and foreign scientific communities which at the meeting in Guaruja decided to discuss this subject in an extracurricular program during a meeting scheduled for tomorrow.

Goldenberg also mentioned the study made by the Brazilian Society of Physics, calling attention to the lack of security in the construction of the Angra Dos Reis complex. Commenting yesterday on the publication of classified government documents by the newspaper O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO regarding these accidents, Goldenberg stated that the lack of an organization overseeing the Brazilian nuclear program, independent of the Mines and Energy Ministry could facilitate the occurrence of even more serious accidents.

He said: "The only conclusion I can draw out of all this is that those responsible for the program did not take the necessary precautions to guarantee the security which has been internationally established. We have to take into account that radioactivity is an invisible mortal agent which may contaminate man over a long period. It was fortunate that the accidents occurred in a nonnuclear stage. And we must be alert that these accidents do not occur in the nuclear stage of the construction of the Anga Dos Reis 1, 2 and 3 plants."

Jose Katz, another professor at the Sao Paulo University Physics Institute, who also expressed regret at the lack of an autonomous oversight organization, said that he is not surprised at the accidents, "because those responsible for the nuclear program have never paid attention to our criticism and they did not even ask for our opinion." Katz, who is a member of a group of independent physicists, was a member of the Brazilian Society of Physics [SBF], which has been studying security aspects of the Brazilian nuclear program.

He stated: "We warned about this, and now with the publication of failures, our criticisms have been confirmed and we could certify that we were not underestimating how serious those responsible for the program were taking that responsibility."

The expert, who proposed a national debate among official and independent technicians aimed at restructuring the atomic program, charged NUCLEBRAS with boycotting the study which physicists are making in the field of security for the Angra Dos Reis nuclear plants. He recalled the irony with which NUCLEBRAS President Paulo Nogueira Batista answered a question they asked him regarding the danger of storing nuclear waste. Nogueira Batista answered that the quantity of plutonium which will be left from the operations will be so small that "it will fit in my office."

NUCLEBRAS leaders refused to give much more information, claiming national security reasons.

The professor ended his criticisms with other warnings. They deal with the construction of three nuclear plants in the same place, as outlined for Angra Dos Reis, a region with meteorological and geological characteristics not recommended for the installation of a nuclear complex, a fact which may unleash an irreversible atomic catastrophe in the future.

Oscar Sala, president of the Brazilian Society for Scientific Progress, said that the accidents in Angra Dos Reis do not indicate failure of the nuclear program. He warned, however, that if these accidents persist, they will compromise the nuclear program. According to his point of view, to prevent a final disaster, "the government must study the causes of the first accidents regardless of the outcome." The congress in Guaruja, which concentrates approximately 100 experts from Brazil and from 9 other countries will continue until Friday, and they will discuss several subjects regarding energy in America and some studies made of the Brazilian energy programs.

PHYSICIST CRITICIZES HANDLING OF ANGRA PROBE

PY181234Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] "What worries me about this issue of inadequate safety standards at the Angra Dos Reis nuclear plant is the fact that, despite the big fuss, only scapegoats are being punished and held responsible for a collapsing structure, and not those officials who did not become concerned with the problem until it arose." This statement was made by Luiz Pinguelli Rosa, a physicist at Rio de Janeiro Federal University, who is attending a symposium held on energy and development in the Americas in Guaruja.

$100 MILLION FOR FIRE PROTECTION AT ANGRA

PY171715Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Veroe Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] The National Nuclear Energy Commission [CNEN] will immediately take steps to improve safety conditions at Angra Dos Reis nuclear plant. With this announcement the CNEN wants to put an end to the whirlwind of polemics raised recently concerning the safety conditions at the construction site of the nuclear plant: Firefighting equipment and services and firealarms will be bought and contracted for at a cost of more than $100 million.

SONDA III ROCKET TO BE LAUNCHED IN APRIL

PY171833Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Mar 78 p 7 PY

[Text] Sao Jose Dos Campos--The Sao Jose Dos Campos Space Activities Institute (IAE) yesterday concluded the most important phase of the program which will make Brazil a member of the super exclusive space explorers' club. The Sonda III space rocket is ready [foi retirado da estufa], and will now be loaded with propulsion fuel to launch it 600 km into space. It will carry 60 kg of equipment to be used in the future in a satellite-launching rocket scheduled for 1985.

When this happens, Brazil will be at a level equivalent to the Soviet Union in 1957 when they launched the Sputnik satellite and began the space race. Despite the difference in time, IAE director Col Hugo de Oliveira Piva made it a point to highlight the importance of Brazil's technological advancement in the space field.

"We are going to launch into space a satellite built in Brazil with rockets completely created and built with domestic technology."

The Sonda III launch will be held 26 April at Barreira do Inferno in Natal, Rio Grande do Sul. On that day, the rocket will complete its fifth test (that is, its fifth experimental launching), which will allow it to conduct scientific research and experimentation with altitude-control equipment.

This equipment will be used in the Brazilian satellite launch scheduled for 1985. These satellites will also carry on board highly sophisticated texting equipment such as that to be used in Spacelab, a space laboratory now being planned in Europe by a consortium of several countries.

Hence the importance of this fifth launching. If the tests turn out well, the FRG will import the Brazilian Sonda III. Their main objective would be to test Spacelab's equipment.

The Sonda III's flight will last only 12 minutes. However, this is enough for it to remain outside the atmosphere for 6 minutes.

The 8-meter long rocket with two sections will reach a speed of mach 11 (11 times the [illegible]ound), and then fall into the sea. The rocket head is programmed to fall 200 [illegible] from the coast, near Natal.

Then, IAE technicians based at Barreira do Inferno will recalibrate their equipment to track a European-made rocket, the Ariane, which will be launched in 1981 from a base in French Guyana. The importance of Barreira do Inferno will be fundamental to the European launch. French scientists involved with the Ariane project will install the tracking equipment in Natal, and later will give it to Brazil for the tracking.

The Sonda III's fifth launch will also lead to new studies by the technicians of Sao Jose Dos Campos' IAE to develop Sonda IV. This rocket will be more sophisticated than its predecessor and will have the advantage of being guided by the scientists at Barreira do Inferno. Sonda III does not have that technology because it was launched only as a ballistic rocket.

The Sonda IV should undergo its first flights in 1981, and the satellite launcher will then be immediately developed. This will consist of four sections and a base similar to Russian rockets, that is, the first section will be made up of four Sonda IV's linked together. The second and third sections will be another two Sonda IV's, while the final part will be the satellite launcher [satelizador].

Technological Independence

The Space Research Institute (INPE), also located in Sao Jose Dos Campos, has already started to develop a domestic satellite for purely scientific objectives. In this way, the 600 technicians involved in the Brazilian space program will be achieving its principal goal which is to develop the country's space technology. This task began with the development of the automobile industry, continued with the aeronautics industry, and will be concluded with the space industry.

Colonel Piva, director of the IAE, made it a point to stress that "the equipment developed in the Brazilian space program will return more than ten times the number of cruzeiros spent during the whole project."

As an example, Lt Col Abner Castro, another IAE leader, says that IAE scientists had to develop a type of laminated steel alloy to be used in the Sonda II. This know-how was used by ACESITA [Itabira Special Steels Company]. Today, production of the laminated alloy is part of the industry's normal line of production and is even being exported.

Another of the IAE's important contributions to domestic industry was the development of highly resistant [alta liga] seamless aluminum tubes designed for smaller rockets. This new technology has been utilized by the thermomechanical industry. Afterward, the company began to supply the domestic automobile industry which had earlier imported these tubes.

COMMUNIQUE ON FERREIRA CASE ISSUED

PY162115Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Mar 78 p 5 PY

[Communique issued by Gen Samuel Augusto Alves Correa, commander of the 3d Army, in Porto Alegre on 13 March]

[Text] The commander of the 3d Army considers it his duty to brief his fellow countrymen whenever it becomes necessary to make facts prevail over rumors. Thus, the following clarifications should be made regarding the remarks made recently by Lt Col Tarcisio Nunes Ferreira:

A. On 4 March 1978, Colonel Nunes Ferreira gave a lecture of essentially a political nature in Ponta Grossa. This lecture was widely disseminated by both the state and national press;

B. This action constituted a violation of discipline, as existing regulations and guidelines prohibit military officers from making remarks of this nature;

C. Therefore, Colonel Nunes Ferreira was punished because he broke military discipline. His superiors had the discretion of announcing his arrest through an internal bulletin, not only to protect him, but also the institution, against malicious comments. Furthermore, the date of his removal--which already had been decided--from the post of commander of the 13th Armored Infantry Batallion was advanced;

D. On 11 March 1978, Colonel Nunes Ferreira committed an even worse breach of discipline by granting an interview published by JORNAL DO BRASIL in which he criticized and referred in a disrespectful and offensive manner to his superiors, grossly violating discipline and chain of command which are basic principles of the military institution.

It is proper to add that military officers can have their own ideas about an issue and can express them through existing internal military channels, but they cannot express their ideas publicly as if they were civilians, because they would thus be breaking discipline, which everyone knowingly and freely agrees to observe when he joints the military;

E. Therefore, in view of the above-mentioned interview, Colonel Nunes Ferreira was punished in accordance with the seriousness of his action.

This commander believes that the above clarification will be instrumental in putting the matter in perspective, and that the case will be considered closed as it is an isolated case of military discipline which has already been solved by the approrpiate military officials.

AZEREDO CLAIMS TRIPARTITE TALKS NOT FAILURE

PY171840Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1727 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Brasilia, 17 Mar--Foreign Minister Antonio Azeredo da Silveira believes that the meetings on the coordination of the Corpus and Itaipu hydroelectric projects which ended yesterday in Asuncion have yielded positive results. This was revealed by Luiz Felipe Lampreia, Itamaraty spokesman, in answer to a newsman's question. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said the fact that a new meeting was scheduled for next month "indicates that the meeting was one more step toward a solution to the problem in question and was far from being a failure." When asked about the possible participation of the Brazilian, Argentine and Paraguayan foreign ministers in the forthcoming meeting, the counsellor only said that there are no indications to that effect.

DEPUTY APPOINTED NEW PERNAMBUCO GOVERNOR

PY180242Y Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 Mar 78 p 1 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia--Gen Joao Baptista Figueiredo has told Governor Moura Cavalcanti that he had appointed Deputy Marco Maciel, president of the Chamber of Deputies, as the next governor of Pernambuco state. Figuereido also told Moura that he will announce the appointment of three more governors on 10 April, that is, Ney Braga, in Parana state; Virgilio Tavora, in Ceara state; and Jarbas Passarinho, in Para state.

BROASSARD SELECTED AS NEW MDB SENATE LEADER

PY161447Y Sao Paulo Cadeia Verde Amarela in Portuguese 1000 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Senator Paulo Brossard was elected new leader of the MDB bloc in the Senate after Senator Franco Montoro withdrew his candidacy in order to preserve party unity.

FIGUEIREDO MAKES BID FOR LABOR SUPPORT

PY181301Y Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 Mar 78 p 5 PY

[Excerpt] Sao Paulo--Gen Joao Baptista de Figueriredo told Jorge Maluli Neto, Sao Paulo state labor secretary, during a recent meeting in Brasilia that he wants the union movement and the working class on his side.

Speaking to newsmen at Bandeirantes Palace yesterday, Maluli Neto quoted Figueiredo as saying: "I want the union movement to gain strength, to be able to adequately represent the desires of the working class, its problems and solutions. I want to have the workers movement on my side."

Maluli said that what Figueiredo "does not want--and no one in his right mind would want this--is to let the union movement serve ideological goals which could disrupt progress, tranquillity and social peace."

Maluli Neto reported that when he briefed Figueiredo on the status of the union movement in Sao Paulo, "the future president expressed great interest, vowing that once his appointment is confirmed, he will talk with the workers and will listen to their leaders."

Maluli Neto reported yesterday that "General Figueiredo was quite impressed" when he told him that the Sao Paulo union movement has come of age.

GOVERNMENT SURPRISED BY BREAK WITH BOLIVIA

PA181308Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1215 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 17 Mar (EFE)--The Chilean Government tonight rejected the reasons given by Bolivia as a basis for breaking diplomatic relations with the military junta on Friday. This was learned from an official note distributed by the Chilean Foreign Ministry at 2330. The surprise expressed this afternoon by Foreign Minister Vice Adm Patricio Carvajal on learning of the Bolivian decision is reiterated several times in the note issued tonight. The Chilean Government answers, in eight points, the charges made by Bolivian Foreign Minister Oscar Adriazola in the letter which he sent to the Chilean charge d'affaires in La Paz today.

The official note issued by the Santiago government concludes by saying that "all the above reveals that there is nothing to explain the surprising decision taken by the Bolivian Government, a decision that disturbs American coexistence, which is more necessary today than ever."

In response to Adriazola's charge that the Chilean Government has shown no flexibility with regard to ending the geographical encirclement imposed on Bolivia 99 years ago, the note points out that the Charana meeting was held at the initiative of the president of Chile. It also states that in December 1975 the Chilean Government proposed specific bases for negotiation which were generally accepted by Bolivia. The Chilean note adds that in several meetings and exchanges the government has repeatedly expressed its intention of promoting the negotiations designed to satisfy Bolivia's desire for a sovereign outlet to the sea. The official note lists specific instances of this, such as the meeting held in New York by the foreign ministers of Chile, Peru and Bolivia, on the occasion of the UN General Assembly session.

The visit to Santiago on 10 March made by Secretary General for Integration Willy Vargas is also mentioned in the Foreign Ministry note, which in closing mentions the Chilean-Bolivian technical meeting presided over by the under secretaries of transportation of the two countries which ended this afternoon with the signing of agreements that are beneficial to the two countries.

Referring to the break in diplomatic relations, Foreign Minister Carvajal said in the afternoon that "this sudden situation is incomprehensible." From the content of the official note, distributed at a most unusual hour of the night, it can be seen that the Chilean Government was surprised by the Bolivian decision. It must be noted that the tone of the official note is moderate. Its purpose seems to be clear; it reiterates Chile's willingness to see that Bolivia obtains its desired outlet to the sea in order to encourage the La Paz government to reconsider its position and, by demonstrating the Santiago government's calmness, to give Bolivian supporters of continued dialog with Chile new arguments.

Envoy Ordered Home

PY180206Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0059 GMT 18 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, 17 Mar--It has been reported here that the Chilean Government tonight ordered the diplomatic personnel of the Chilean Embassy in La Paz to return to Santiago after the breaking of relations with Bolivia.

Sources close to the Chilean Foreign Ministry also reported that the Chilean consuls in La Paz and Santa Cruz de la Sierra had been directed to remain in their respective posts.

Commenting on the Bolivian decision, Pedro Daza, the Chilean ambassador in La Paz, stated here that "there are highly positive factors which could have lead to solving the sea outlet demanded by Bolivia." The diplomat added that the 10-percent surcharge on transportation rates of the Arica-La Paz railway already had been eliminated, noting that this would benefit Bolivia.

UN, OAS Notified

PA200150Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2115 GMT 19 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 19 Mar (LATIN)--Chile has notified the OAS Permanent Council and UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim of the Bolivian decision to break diplomatic relations and the mobilization of military forces toward the borders. The text of the note delivered to officials of the two international organizations was revealed here today. It reads:

"Mister President: The Government of Bolivia unexpectedly informed the Chilean Government that it had suspended diplomatic relations on 17 March.

"I am attaching, as enclosures, the texts of the note delivered to the Chilean charge d'affaires in La Paz and of the official statement made by my government regarding the issue.

"In addition, on the eve of the announcement regarding the suspension of diplomatic relations, it was officially announced in Bolivia that armed forces and police detachments of that country were beginning a peaceful march toward various points on the Chilean border as a 'symbolic' expression of their aspirations over part of Chile's territory.

"I have been instructed to inform Your Excellency and through you the members of the Permanent Council of the Organization of American States of these facts since they are part of an action intended to undermine inter-American solidarity and collaboration as well as the principles and purposes that inspire the organization's charter.

DEFENSE MINISTER MEETS WITH PERUVIAN COUNTERPART

PA201318Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0150 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Arica, Chile, 19 Mar (LATIN)--On meeting today at the border between their two countries, the Chilean and Peruvian defense ministers, Gens Hermann Brady and Oscar Molina, respectively, reaffirmed the ties of friendship and the "strong unity" existing between their countries' military institutions. Brady and Molina discussed these ties during a ceremony held at the Linea de la Concordia in the course of which their two flags were hoisted before a statue of Christ, while the Chilean and Peruvian national anthems were played.

In the name of the Peruvian Government, Molina reiterated "Peru's increasing desire to maintain close ties with Chile." For his part, General Brady responded that that is the desire of those entrusted with the mission of governing in both countries.

After cordially embarcing each other, Brady and Molina left for the Peruvian City of Tacna, where a luncheon was given.

In the afternoon, the two delegations traveled to the Chilean port of Arica where Brady hosted a dinner in honor of his guest. The two defense ministers were accompanied by their wives and several high-ranking chiefs of the Peruvian and Chilean armies.

JUDGES REVEAL ADDITIONAL DETAILS OF LETELIER CASE

Libedinsky on Passports

PY171320Y Santiago Chile Radio Mineria Network in Spanish 1030 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Text] Santiago,--During an impromptu talk with journalists, special judge Marcos Libedinsky has stated: "I have enough details to believe that I will now have a better chance to find the two official passports which are missing." He said he was in a position [word indistinct] to believe that very soon he will have the passports issued to Juan Williams Rose and Alejandro Romeral Jara, who, according to the U.S. Government and the U.S. courts, are involved in the assassination of former Foreign Minister Orlando Letelier. Although the judge did not specifically state that the passports have been found, it can be derived from this statement that the judge has been successful in his investigations. Answering other questions, Judge Libedinsky noted that the airline used and the date and time they left the country have already been established. He added that they made stops in Miami and New York and not in Washington, as it has been reported. Moreover, it was learned that they paid cash for the two tickets and [words indistinct].

The judge did not answer several questions, alluding to the secrecy of the summary proceedings, but he did admit that until now he had questioned four persons: (?Sergio Alvarez), former director of the consular department; (?Victor Adriazola), director of the passport department during 1976--both of whom are members of the Foreign Ministry; and two other persons whose names he did not want to disclose but who are also linked to the Foreign Ministry.

Osorio's Death Ruled Suicide

PY180111Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1801 GMT 17 Mar 78 PY

[Excerpt] Santiago, Chile, 17 Mar--A local judge today ruled the death of Guillermo Osorio, former head of the Chilean protocol department, a suicide. The decision in the hearing on Osorio's death on 22 October 197[illegible] was sent by the judge to a court of the Santiago de Chile Court of Appeals. The decision, issued after the hearing was closed, says that according to the facts presented in court, it is not totally justified to rule that a crime was committed (homicide). The Chilean press recently published remarks made by family members expressing "doubts that Osorio had committed suicide."

BRIEFS

PROFITS OF GOVERNMENT MINES--Santiago, Chile, 16 Mar--It was reported here that the large copper mines which are owned by the Chilean state had a net profit of $159 million in 1977. The Copper Corporation said that this means there is a $19.6 million decrease in comparison with the profit obtained in 1976, which amounted to $178.6 million. In 1977 the Chilean Government collected $1.1 billion for the export of copper and $1,177,000,000 in 1976. The Chilean state runs the Chuqicamata, Exotica, Salvador, El Teniente and Andina mines. [Text] [Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 1434 GMT 16 Mar 78 PY]

LIBERALS PROCLAIM TURBAY OFFICIAL PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA172308Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The National Liberal Party Convention today granted full powers to presidential candidate Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala so that, as top party chief, he can organize leadership staffs and advisers. Turbay was simultaneously proclaimed the Liberal Party's only and official presidential candidate for the next 4-year period. [Words indistinct] rejecting the pluralist formula proposed by some statesman.

The convention, the Liberal Party's main organization, is meeting now at the Elliptical Hall of the national capital in accordance with the provisions of the San Carlos consensus. Participating in the convention are representatives of all sectors of the party. Former Presidents Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Dario Echandia were absent of their own volition. Former President Alberto Lleras Camargo is attending and will probably speak during the course of the convention.

The Liberal Party today stated that the different wings of the party must unite if it is to win the elections. In a statement signed by the Liberal National Convention, the [illegible] says the candidacy of Belisario Betancur is a populist one, asserting that his [words indistinct] is full of internal contradictions but still shows the rightist [words indistinct] and the tenacity with which conservatism seeks victory.

The Liberal Party says that it is essentially concerned with struggling in all ways possible against corruption in its various forms and asks the cooperation of all party sectors, of public opinion and the press and party leaders in this endeavor.

The Liberal convention admits that the image of Congress has deteriorated in the eyes of the people, noting that a Congress discredited because of its own actions or because of exaggerations or distortions by those who do not wish it well is bad for democracy.

Turbay Addresses Convention

PA181803Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Speech by Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala at Liberal Party convention held at the Elliptical Hall in Bogota upon accepting nomination as Liberal Party presidential candidate--live]

[Excerpts] Special guests, ladies and gentlemen of the convention:

After a lengthy political process which started with the executive's proposal of separating the elections for president and public corporations, representatives of the various Liberal factions--inspired by the noble intention of helping to reunite the party--drew up the consensus of San Carlos. That document established that the parliamentary elections of last 26 February would be the primary for choosing the Liberal Party's candidate for the presidency.

As happens in genuine democracies, the campaign was lively and intense. Our electoral system, which is still not perfect, continues to be the one in Latin America which most genuinely reflects the people's will. Consequently, I am pleased to recognize you--who have clean credentials about which I have no doubts--as the legitimate representatives of the party empowered to speak for the Liberal people in the public corporations and the sovereign body of Congress.

Naturally, electoral reform continues to be a priority necessity. We all agree on the urgent need to correct the structural shortcomings of an anachronistic system which was designed for a rural republic and not for a nation which has a great need for more speed in all stages of the electoral process.

When elections are not won by a sizable margin, the delay in providing correct information regarding the verdict of the polls can cause serious disruptions of public order.

One of my concerns as government leader will be to seek the parties' agreement on this unpostponable task. [Words indistinct] in our country will advance toward the perfection of its democratic mechanisms by institutionalizing political parties and pointing out the legal guidelines for their internal organization. Among other things, I propose to appoint a commission to draft a bill which will regulate the activities of parties, establish norms for contributions to political parties and give an obligatory character to the primary system for choosing either directly or indirectly the respective presidential candidates. I dedicate myself to all aspects [words indistinct] to the internal regime of [words indistinct].

Since the first stage of the electoral process has been successfully concluded, it is now necessary to strengthen liberal unity, setting aside and relegating to the past the offenses and [words indistinct].

Since the day after the 26 February elections, I have been maintaining that my candidacy has stopped being the aspiration of the majority sector of the Liberal Party and has acquired the status of the sole candidace of the Liberal Party. It is a candidacy which does not want to leave casualties on the battlefield but which will give all Liberals the shared satisfaction of a victory over the candidate of the Conservative Party.

I see this battle against our traditional opponents as a confrontation of [words indistinct] programs and solutions to the complex problems the government must face.

I have faith that the battle for the presidency can be waged without creating (?needless) tensions or harming the interests of the country and relations between the parties.

For my part, with the pride of a democrat, I have presented my candidacy as the candidacy of the Liberal Party [applause], that is, the candidacy of the majority political force, the candidacy of the party which, when leading the government, can give guarantees to all citizens, promote development and social justice and speed up change without ever having to resort to force of arms, because it will always have the powerful support of the public. As I demanded from the people, today I again demand from my party's national convention a Liberal mandate for a national government. [applause]

I understand well the imperative need for Liberal unity not only to assure a victory in the 4 July elections but mainly so that our organization, acting with the status of a ruling party, will be the instrument for the modernization of the state, administrative and regional decentralization, the (?expediting) of justice and the incorporation of the large popular groups into the (?double) process of development and [word indistinct].

I am aware that Liberal unity will be enhanced to the extent that the party carries out its democratic revolutionary tradition, promoting the great reforms that will make our society less [word indistinct]. In the hands of the Liberals, the government will be the means to promote great social change, free of adventurism and demagogism.

We will advance along the paths of democracy without attempting to go beyond its borders but without [words indistinct] of the reforms. The worst that could happen to Colombia and Liberalism would be the presence of a government (?which supports the status quo) and is against new things in a changing society.

In this speech, I do not intend to outline a detailed government platform but to stress some subjects which, because of their current importance, I believe it is useful to bring to the attention of the Colombian public. In addition to the pending reforms of departmental and municipal administration and justice, Liberalism should resume the reform of Congress. I had the honor of submitting to the consideration of the past two ordinary legislatures the draft of that reform which was the result of the judicious study by eminent Liberals. As the sole Liberal candidate, I am actively interested in reviving that initiative which has been and continues to be one of the banners of our party and the aspiration of all democrats. May I be permitted to ask the National Liberal Convention to recommend that the party legislators give priority to the examination of that reform which is in the interest of Colombian democracy.

As I have repeatedly stated, I am in favor of returning the university to the university. It is, therefore, essential that there be a modification of the constitutional provision which since 1968 has given the executive the power to appoint the rector of the national university. I believe this appointment would better reflect the university atmosphere if it were made by the directing council on which students, professors and the government are represented. During my constitutional term, I will call on the university many times to request its cooperation in the analysis of various social problems that demand methodical study. I seek to strengthen research and technology at the Colombian university. Thus, along with their academic knowledge, the university students will be familiar with national affairs.

The concern for the problems of women and their greater participation in administrative and political activities is not of a (?temporary) nature. It goes back to the granting to women of the right to vote and be elected which was established in the 1957 (?plebiscite) and which I had the honor of signing as minister of the government junta. Later, in 1964, I had the satisfaction of being the author of the bill which gave the president of the republic special powers to issue the legal standards which established equal rights for men and women. It is, therefore, understandable that now, as candidate of the party, I make the voluntary commitment of not lessening the participation which the current administration has given to women to the benefit of the country. In contemporary society, it is necessary that responsibilities be shared with women [words indistinct] of men. My government will be attentive to all [words indistinct].

A good part of the campaign which concluded with the victory of my presidential precandidacy on 26 February was devoted to offering all the support of the government I will head to a policy of [word indistinct], production and employment. I know that it is not an easy task but an ambitious goal which I will only achieve with the cooperation [words indistinct] of all segments of the country. I have a great faith in Colombia and the [word indistinct] ability of the Liberal Party. I do not doubt that we shall be able to overcome many of the current difficulties and stimulate [words indistinct], cattle raising, traditional industry, agroindustry, foreign trade and crafts. All new companies that generate mass employment will have tax and credit incentives that will permit their expansion and help to eliminate the current lack of jobs in the labor market. The creation of jobs through public investment, business incentives, the [word indistinct] of credits, and the creation of productive cooperatives will be a priority objective of the government which I (?seek to lead) in the name of liberalism.

I am not ignoring the magnitude of the problems which the current government has had to confront. I am aware that those of the future government will in no way be (?smaller). In the campaign, I did not make the commitment of [words indistinct]. President Lopez Michelsen has [words indistinct], and this should permit me to implement liberal solutions which respond to the clamorous desire for change of the majority of the nation. I will reach power with enough independence not to abandon [words indistinct] desires of originality, plans such as those of electrification, petroleum self-sufficiency, the increasing exploitation of gas and coal resources in La Guajira, integrated rural development, the food and nutrition plan, the expansion of low cost housing, to refer to just a few of the many which are included within the limits of our (?fiscal) possibilities.

[Words indistinct] the policy of maritime areas demarcation and have progressed with noteworthy success under President Lopez Michelsen and Foreign Minister Lievano Aguirre. I recognize this with the pride of a Colombian [words indistinct].

I am in favor of a strong labor movement that has the ability to participate actively in the [words indistinct] of the democratic system [words indistinct] role corresponding to it in the planned economy. There is nothing (?like a strong) labor organization to maintain the social equilibrium as a counterbalance to the powerful business organizations. The same reason (?can suffice) for the democratic organizations not to let themselves by overwhelmed by the extreme left, which today is waging a harder and more determined struggle to achieve its political and labor objectives.

It will surely be necessary to revise the labor code to [words indistinct] the proliferation of isolated laws which make for confusing labor legislation and make [words indistinct] some statutes require clarification for the convenience of workers and businessmen is the one which regulates labor-business relations. In the name of the Liberal Party, I raise the banner of the democratic labor movement and express my resolve to strengthen the labor organization in order to increase our awareness of the labor classes and serve their cause.

As Liberal Party spokesman and as an ordinary Colombian citizen, I am alarmed about the (?progress of enrichment without cause) which has distinguished itself in the capitalist democracies, ours not excepted, where evil advances with greater strength than our traditional honesty would permit to [words indistinct]. It is a scourge which encompasses sections of the public administration and the private sector alike. We must fight against it on various fronts with greater moral vigor. The present government [words indistinct] has enacted measures such as the partial reform of the penal code, the judicial reform proposal which the Constitutional Assembly must deal with, the greater resources granted to the attorney general's office for administrative vigilance, the proposal for the institutionalization of the overseer, the Colombian version of the ombundsman system which works with noteworthy success in the Scandinavian countries, the modernization of the statutes of the comptroller general's office, the creation of the port police, the statutes on the contracting regimen of disqualification and incompatibility for the legal representatives of the [words indistinct] and the members of the [word indistinct] councils, independently from the actions of the judges and the cooperation of the military forces and police in the prevention and repression of crime, as well as the decision of the executive branch to fire discreetly, on simple moral grounds, officials suspected of [words indistinct].

I have not the slightest doubt about the (?moral authority) of the Liberal Party to undertake a moral crusade with the full vigor which characterizes the [words indistinct]. Our determination to wipe out corruption cannot be stopped by any consideration because there is no higher interest than (?compliance) with ethical values.

As ruler, I will follow the austere example of my own public and private life. I will place all the powers of the state at the service of the [word indistinct] of society and the democratic institutions. The elimination of the virus of moral decay will receive my full attention.

Naturally, I will not fall into the mistake of giving honesty a political meaning [words indistinct]. For that reason, I will [words indistinct] criminal activities to the Colombians of all parties. Surrounded by the most honest and the most competent persons, I will do everything in my power to [words indistinct] security and to strengthen [words indistinct].

Without discrimination, I will call into the government all Liberals who have the intellectual capacity and moral honesty required to implement the great and ambitious enterprise of renovation that the Liberal Party is historically called on to undertake now that it is making the transition from parity to new forms of government established by the constitution itself. I have no fears for the future of the democratic institutions. The coup d'etat which is worrying some is nothing but the result of a lack of knowledge of national reality. Our tradition of respect for civil law is rooted in the deepest corners of the national soul and has the additional guarantee of the truly professional character of the country's armed forces.

[illegible]ot lose sight of the fact that the recovery of democratic institutions was the [illegible]k of civilians and soldiers who, together in their aspirations, reestablished the force of the constitution.

The national front fulfilled its function. It was not the ideal system for normal times, but it was the proper temporary measure for gradually returning to the free play of democracy. The alternating presidency and the parity in the executive branch will, upon expiration of its constitutional authority, give way to new forms of government. This in no way presupposes a return to the exclusive regimen of parties, but does imply a greater democratic predomination in the [passage indistinct].

I believe it would be appropriate that a new party convention be held before the end of the year to implement a modern and democratic Liberal organization in accordance with the law which regulates the operation of political parties. I hope that we can give the party a broad, modern and functional organization.

As the sole candidate of the Liberal Party, I can assure my supporters that in my government no one will be discriminated against. There will be no favors for those who have supported me the longest time, nor will there be privileged stockholders in the great enterprise of service to Colombia [words indistinct] in name of the entire Liberal Party.

With assurance in the victory of the Liberal programs, I resume before the people the presidential campaign which will triumph after many years of the presence of our party [words indistinct].

With growing faith in Colombia, I express best wishes for the personal welfare of the members of the convention and for the success of their work, and I urge you to take to the people the message of democratic faith of [words indistinct] man in victory. Long live Colombia, long live the Liberal Party.

STUDENT LEADER SHOT TO DEATH IN PORTOVIEJO

PA172302Y Quito Cadena Del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[By correspondent Bernardo Morales]

[Text] Portoviejo--Victor Herazo, leader of the Traditional Democratic University Movement, has tragically lost his life as a result of a well-aimed shot fired at close range. He had been nominated candidate to the presidency of the Manabi branch of the Federation of Ecuadorean University Students [FEUE]. The tragic event is a continuation of the bloody events which have been occurring at the campus of the Manabi Technical University, where there is a general state of insecurity and unrest. According to reports, Herazo was hit by a shotgun blast that perforated his abdomen. The scene of tragedy and grief was the Espejo printing house located at [words indistinct]. It was reported that Herazo had left the university at noon, where elections were being held at the agronomical engineering school. He went to the printing house to pick up leaflets related to the students' electoral campaign. While inside the printing house, according to one version, an individual came in to offer a shotgun for sale to the student leader. The fatal shot was fired while the presumed seller was showing the shotgun to Herzao. The assailant was able to leave the place quietly, taking advantage of the fact that there were few persons in the area at that time, 1230 [date not specified]. Herazo, seriously wounded, was taken to the regional hospital, where he died at 1500. Apparently, the candidate had been followed from the university by his assailant, who found the Espejo printing house to be an appropriate location to commit the crime.

PRO-PEKING MARXIST PARTY NAMES CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENT

PA182255Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0358 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Quito, 17 Mar (EFE)--The presidential candidacy of Dr Camilo Mena Mena, incumbent rector of Quito's Central University, was announced today. The nomination took place during the first national convention of the Popular Democratic Movement [Movimiento Popular Democratico] --pro-Peking, Marxist, leftwing--which was held in Quito today with the participation of about 5,000 delegates from various provinces. Camilo Mena's candidacy is the sixth that has been officially announced in Ecuador less than 4 months before the presidential elections which will virtually end 8 years of dictatorial regimes in this country.

Economist Abdon Calderon of the Alfarist Radical Front (liberal) and Attorney Rodrigo Borja of the Democratic Left are also presidential hopefuls. Other presidential candidates are architect Sixto Duran Ballen of a center-rightist coalition supported by a socialist faction; Physician Francisco Huerta of the Radical Liberal Party; and Attorney Jaime Roldos of the coalition of the Concentration of Popular Forces and the People's Democracy.

PNR TO SUPPORT HUERTA MONTALVO'S CANDIDACY

PA181621Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Nationalist Revolutionary Party [PNR], led by Dr Carlos Julio Arosemena Monroy, will support the candidacy of Dr Francisco Huerta Montalvo, it was learned in political circles today. Huerta Montalvo, who is on a 6-day tour of Manabi province, confirmed that an understanding had been reached with Arosemena's party but said that its support of his candidacy will be announced in a public statement which the PNR is preparing. PNR leaders in Quito refrained from comment.

OPPOSITION LEADERS CRITICIZE PEREZ' SPEECH TO NATION

PA200228Y Caracas EL NACTIONAL in Spanish 11 Mar 78 p D-5 PA

[Article by Victor Manuel Reinoso]

[Text] All of the opposition leaders who were interviewed yesterday regarding President Carlos Andres Perez' fourth state of the union speech agreed that Perez again spoke in an overly optimistic manner about an imaginary country and quoted figures which pertain to 1976. One of those interviewed said that it was not an annual message but a 4-year message.

The leaders interviewed were Eduardo Fernandez, chief of the Social Christian Party (COPEI) legislative faction; Pompeyo Marquez, senator and secretary general of the Movement to Socialism; Siuberto Martinez, chief of the legislative faction of the People's Electoral Movement (MEP); Romulo Henriquez, deputy and acting secretary general of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR); and Ramon Tenorio Sifontes, spokesman of the legislative faction of the Democratic Republican Union (URD). They discussed President Perez' statements on the public debt and the petroleum policy, the figures he used and subjects he did not mention or touched on only briefly.

"I believe that the Venezuelan president lives in an imaginary, unreal country, totally out of touch with the daily problems that the people of Venezuela have to face," Eduardo Fernandez said. "For example, his statements on the public debt are particularly worrying because the future of the country and the coming generations is being seriously compromised.

"President Perez said that out of a total public debt of 34 billion bolivares, he inherited a debt of 7 billion plus a 12 billion floating debt, so the public debt that his government should be held accountable for is one of 15 billion bolivares. The president said this, but he conveniently forgot the floating debt that he leaves, which brings the public debt to more than 50 billion bolivares," Fernandez said.

Fernandez added that the president said that the decrease in petroleum production is a result of his administration's conservationist policy, but in a subsequent remark the president said that his government's goal of a daily average of 2.1 million barrels will not be reached. This shows the government's lack of sincerity in fiscal affairs.

Fernandez said that the president's speech will undoubtedly be extensively debated in Congress, contrasting the president's view of the country with that of the rest of the Venezuelans.

Referring to the economic and indebtedness policy, Senator Pompeyo Marquez recalled that President Perez had asked how much the assets that have been purchased with foreign earnings are worth. Senator Marquez said that the question that must be asked is what has been done with the 200 billion bolivares that the treasury has received in these past years. The answer will reveal the reasons for the increasing indebtedness despite those revenues, Pompeyo Marquez said.

He added that the issue lies in how the country has been governed in the past 4 years, noting that "the government's sole accomplishment has been that of turning the fiscal bonanza into fiscal chaos."

"The country had been waiting for a much more specific report on the petroleum issue and its effect on public revenue," Senator Marquez said, adding that "President Perez said that there will be a decrease of 50,000 to 100,000 barrels a day. The most optimistic estimate of the Venezuelan Petroleum Company (PETROVEN) and the Energy and Mines Ministry is of 200,000 barrels a day. And the president did not even mention the erroneous estimates that the Finance and Energy and Mines Ministries made during the drafting of the budget."

He said that this speech will help to get out of the anecdote [anecdota] and enter into a debate that will give the country an answer. [sentence as published]

MIR Acting Secretary General Romulo Henriquez said that the "president's message was out of focus in time and space. He cited 1976 figures in most cases instead of referring to 1977 figures. He described an ideal country which is not the one we live in. He juggled the figures in a way which was, to say the least, suspicious because he affirmed that the purchasing power of Venezuelan workers had increased by 15 percent. The president said that the inflation rate had averaged 8 percent per year. In order to have a 15 percent increase in purchasing power, it would have been necessary for his administration to increase salaries by 50 percent during his term, which, I may add, has not occurred in the Venezuelan economy. Salaries have increased, but at a slower rate than the cost of living." Henriquez, who is an economist, also discussed what the president described as an "innovative financial strategy."

"The financial strategy that the president defends is that of indebtedness, which is one of the oldest economic tactics known," Henriquez noted.

The chief of the MEP legislative faction said that his party has appointed a commission of specialists to analyze the message. Its conclusions will be revealed during the political debate to be held in Congress.

"I can say in advance that the overflowing optimism displayed by the president of the republic in his message does not conform to the country's true situation, which has been shaken by a deepening of the fundamental problems of Venezuelan society after 4 years of the present administration and by a dangerous economic crisis which permits one to reach the obvious conclusion that the record of the present administration is more negative than positive in the basic areas of national development."

"This was not an annual message, but a 4-year message, as it was a 4-year summary or compilation of the present constitutional term and was not limited to presenting the work of the government during 1977," URD spokesman Ramon Tenorio Sifontes stated. He added: "The message reflects the official view, the government's view of the present Venezuela which is being built for the future.

"According to our preliminary judgment, this view is different from the flesh and bones Venezuela in which close to 13 million Venezuelans live amid many social and economic problems which have changed in dimension over the past 4 years and have become more serious precisely as a result of the lack of satisfactory solutions."

Gustavo Machado, deputy and president of the Communist Party of Venezuela (PCV), said that his party's Political Bureau will thoroughly analyze the presidential message at a meeting on 16 March.

"I can say in advance that this message does not state the truth in describing the government's behavior as honest and clear in its defense of human rights. There have been many abuses of workers and students.

However, the country is not as well off as President Perez sees it. If this is not so, how can one explain the spreading discontent over the rising cost of living, the insecurity of the family, the lack of services and the numerous problems that afflict Venezuelans."

According to Machado, the government's position on Latin American integration, OPEC and the North-South dialog deserve respect.

"I believe that the reference to the struggle of the people of Nicaragua is in keeping with the country's solidarity with that sister country," concluded the veteran PCV leader, who fought with Sandino more than 40 years ago in the Nicaraguan mountains and who became Sandino's representative in Mexico.

FOREIGN MINISTER DISCUSSES CARTER VISIT, OTHER TOPICS

PA2013102 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1223 GMT 20 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 Mar (EFE)--President Carter's visit to Caracas on 28 March may produce solutions to some of Latin America's problems as a result of his talks with Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez. A statement to this effect was made by Venezuelan Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi in an interview published today by EL NACIONAL of Caracas.

Consalvi said there is no agenda for the presidents' talks since it was considered better for each participant to bring up what he considers of greatest interest to his respective country or region. Nevertheless, the minister added that the Venezuelan chief of state will emphasize the need for implementing the Caribbean development plans which Perez feels are indispensable to guarantee the region's stability.

He also pointed out that subjects sure to be brought up are bilateral disputes in Latin America, the arms race in some Latin American countries and the need to exercise [words indistinct] help to resolve them. He added that the subject of human rights will not be forgotten as it is a particularly sensitive question in Latin America.

Regarding the recent break of diplomatic relations between Bolivia and Chile, the foreign minister said Venezuela took over Bolivia's affairs in Chile on Friday at the request of Bolivian President Hugo Banzer. He went on to say that the incident was unfortunate as it stands in the way to finding a solution for Bolivia's efforts to obtain an outlet to the sea, which he considers to be a just aspiration.

He also said that every bilateral conflict reflects negatively on the search of over-all solutions for the problems of Latin America and that in the southern cone of the hemisphere problems are serious and conflicts are increasing. In Venezuela's opinion, these problems and conflicts should be solved with a greater spirit of fairness and understanding.

Consalvi expressed the great concern of the Venezuelan Government about the kidnaping of Italian Christian Democratic leader Aldo Moro, condemning "this unbelievable and absurd action, whose purpose is difficult to define and determine."

He considered that the only interpretation which can be given to the case is that it is a resurrection of old neofascist tactics to disrupt the search for wise and rational solutions to problems in Italy and other European countries.

PRINCE OF WALES ARRIVES ON VISIT, RECEIVED BY PEREZ

PA171534Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The prince of Wales arrived in our country yesterday. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi.

Later the prince of Wales placed a floral wreath at the liberator's tomb at the national cemetery. He was also received by President Carlos Andres Perez at the Miraflores Palace.

Meets Congress President

PA180318Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Today, the prince of Wales visited National Congress President Gonzalo Barrios. The heir to the throne of England is on a 7-day visit to our country. The meeting between Prince Charles of England and Dr Gonzalo Barrios took place at the Legislative Palace. The prince was accompanied by members of his party and the British ambassador to Venezuela.

SENATE APPROVES 200-MILE TERRITORIAL SEA BILL

PA172245Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 2146 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Mar (EFE)--Venezuela has taken a new step toward becoming a country with a 200-mile offshore jurisdictional limit. During its last session the Venezuelan Senate approved a bill to this effect. For final approval it must be ratified by the Chamber of Deputies.

According to this law, Venezuela will exert sovereignty and jurisdiction over its continential and insular seas up to 200 nautical miles offshore. The 200-mile zone is a new juridical entity created during the third UN Law of the Seas Conference. The Law of the Seas Conference has not completed its work yet, although some countries have already established exclusive economic or fishing zones through domestic legislation. Others have announced their intention to do so.

The bill presented by the Venezuelan Government contains nine articles to which the Senate commission did not object. Therefore it was proposed last night that it be approved without modification. The entire process to make it law will take at least 2 weeks.

HOPE FADES FOR FINDING MISSING PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

PA180348Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] President Carlos Andres Perez has just said that there is no hope of finding the Cessna 310 light plane in which presidential candidate Renny Ottolina and four campaign advisers were traveling. There is no indication of how the accident occurred. In a brief statement, the president said that he regrets it deeply and that last night he ordered Navy units and helicopters to search the area where it is believed the accident took place. The president is being directly informed about the search from the destroyer "Almirante Clemente."

MINISTER OF INFORMATION-TOURISM RESIGNS

PA180359Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

**[Text] Information and Tourism Minister** Diego Arria Salicetti has just presented his resignation from the cabinet. The resignation has been accepted by the president of the republic, who appointed Dr Celestino Armas to fill the vacancy.

INTERIOR MINISTER DENIES RESURGENCE OF GUERRILLA ACTIVITY

PA172207Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 1000 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The subversive groups which operate in the countryside do so by surprise and subterfuge, Interior Minister Dr Octavio Lepage said at Miraflores Palace. The minister said that the recent guerrilla clash at Santa Maria de Ipire does not mean that subversive activities are reappearing. These armed groups that devote themselves to banditry lack any political ideology or doctrine, Dr Octavio Lepage said. He went on to say that it would not be possible to begin such banditry in cities because the bandits could not find conditions suitable for carrying out their activities in cities.

Army Pursues Guerrillas

PA180325Y Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2050 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Two women and seven men apparently comprise the group of irregulars that ambushed an army patrol some 5 km from Santa Maria de Ipire last Tuesday. Second Lt Wilfredo Ramon Silva and Private Alfredo Parra were wounded in the fighting. It is believed that at least two of the guerrillas were also wounded. The guerrillas are being intensively pursued by members of the Jose Laurencio Silva battalion.

EDITOR RECEIVES ASYLUM AT NICARAGUAN EMBASSY

PA180438Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0359 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 17 Mar (AFP)--The Nicaraguan charge d'affaires tonight confirmed that Jorge Olavarria, editor of the Venezuelan liberal magazine RESUMEN, was granted asylum at the Nicaraguan Embassy here.

Safe-Conduct Granted

PA191548Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1453 GMT 19 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 Mar (AFP)--It was reported here today that Venezuela has granted a safe-conduct for Jorge Olavarria, editor of the Venezuelan magazine RESUMEN, after Nicaragua officially reported that it has granted him asylum. Foreign Minister Simon Alberto Consalvi said that Nicaraguan Charge d'Affaires Herman Hooker Cabrera announced the granting of asylum. Olavarria had asked for asylum at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Caracas, claiming to be politically persecuted by the government of President Carlos Andres Perez because of his constant criticism of the administration. The editor had recently been imprisoned as a result of a lawsuit filed by one of his former wives, a case which Olavarria linked to political persecution. He charged that public officials had placed hidden microphones in his cell. This charge was proven by the attorney general's office. A committee of the Inter-American Press Association will arrive in Caracas in the next few days to study the Olavarria case.

TORRIJOS CALLS FOR MEETING TO STUDY TREATY SITUATION

PA1900054Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Our chief of government, Gen Omar Torrijos Herrera, today convened a meeting of the National Foreign Policy Council [consejo nacional de politica exterior] in order to study the new situation that has arisen regarding the ratification of the canal treaties by the United States.

The meeting took place at Farallon. During the meeting it was pointed out that the reservations and amendments to the neutrality treaty approved with 68 votes in favor and 32 against in the U.S. Senate have been analyzed on the following basic principles that Omar stated in a letter sent to President James Carter hours before the treaty was voted on: Any reservation that may represent a blemish to national dignity or that alters or changes the objectives of the treaty or that is aimed at blocking the true exercise of Panamanian sovereignty over all territory will be unacceptable to Panama. Our government will not pass judgment on the amendments and reservations made to the Torrijos-Carter treaties until the U.S. Senate concludes the ratification process, since our people did not ratify the treaties separately but together.

At a forthcoming meeting in which the members of the Council of State and our ambassador to the United States will participate, the policy to be followed in face of the new situation that the most conservative sectors in the United States are creating around the ratification of the treaties that give our country control over the Canal Zone before the year 2000 will be discussed. This is what policy based on principles means.

The spirit of the Panamanian revolutionary process is flexible, it is broadminded and patient, but our people and the revolutionary government have principles that are not abstract but arise from the blood shed by our martyrs in order to eradicate the colonist from the fatherland.

Treaties are a peaceful solution sought by us in order to prevent a high social cost for liberation. However, our sentiments and our flexibility must not be confused with something else. The attitude of our people is reflected in Omar's watchword: "Either on our feet or dead, but never kneeling."

NEGOTIATORS ESCOBAR, ROYO HOLD PRESS CONFERENCE

PA1801000Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Aristides Royo, who were part of Panama's treaty negotiating team, met this afternoon with the local press to report on the status of the new Panama Canal treaties which are midway in the process of ratification by the United States.

Escobar and Royo explained that we are experiencing a moment which is not one of euphoria but neither is it one of defeat. They asked press, radio and television newsmen to help the government maintain an atmosphere of calm and watchful waiting. They explained the differences between the amendments and the reservations by the U.S. Senate to the international agreements. Amendments change an article of the pacts totally while reservations are Senate opinions which are added to the pacts and are only obligatory when they are accepted by the other country in the exchange of instruments of ratification.

Escobar indicated that a reservation such as the one presented yesterday by Sen. Dennis DeConcini and approved by the Senate may oblige Panama to present its own reservations when the instruments of ratification are exchanged. For this reason, the Panamanian Government has decided not to make any statement until the Senate decides on the second treaty, the canal treaty.

At that time, the Panamanian Government will analyze each and every one of the amendments and reservations and will take a position.

However, Royo said, if the Senate continues whittling away at the treaties as it has done so far, it may turn out that Panama will have to tell the world that there are no new canal treaties.

Both negotiators agreed that the canal pact itself, which contains a series of revindications of an economic nature for Panama, will be much more difficult for the U.S. Senate. Royo pointed out: The neutrality treaty was easy for them and very hard for us. Now comes the treaty which is hard for them and good for us. That canal treaty has still not been subjected to discussion and already has 27 amendment proposals. Until the Senate makes a decision, the atmosphere in Panama should be one of calm, never one of frustration or defeat. There should be an atmosphere of analysis without reaching states of despair.

Among the measures adopted to maintain the atmosphere of calm is the postponement of the beginning of classes until 17 April. Escobar explained that the objectives of the conservative senators are to defeat the treaties or to lead Panama to another plebiscite and also to cause problems in Panama by exasperating the people by offending them. Escobar said we will have to endure those provocations because the most important thing now is the treaties' approval. Our irritation in this case is of secondary importance.

Escobar pointed out that one of the articles of the canal treaty which will be torpedoed by the senators is the one referring to the sea level canal. He explained that Panama never wanted this article and that General Torrijos himself said it was equivalent to a second marriage by the same couple.

Further Report

PA180125Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian negotiators Aristides Royo and Romulo Escobar Bethancourt held a news conference at 1430 with local newsmen in the offices of the Cerro Colorado Corporation located in the National Bank Building to explain the position of the Panamanian Government.

Royo said that the position of the Panamanian Government at this crucial moment in the history of the nation is prudent, wise and politically adequate. He added that the neutrality treaty has some aspects which are hard for the Panamanian people to accept. However, he added, it is the treaty by which the United States returns the Panama Canal to Panama which really contains concessions favorable to the Panamanian people. Therefore, in the opinion of the negotiators, this treaty, which the U.S. Senate will soon begin discussing, is the one that will undergo a long series of amendments, of which 27 have already been announced.

Meanwhile, Escobar Bethancourt told newsmen that it was necessary to understand that the Panama Canal is part of the U.S. defense system and, for this reason, it was hard for the U.S. Senate to give up the canal to Panama. Escobar Bethancourt said that last night the Panamanian Government was facing a state of uncertainty and could not express any joy over something which still is incomplete.

He added that the last reservation to the neutrality treaty touches upon the Panamanian Government's main concern not to have the U.S. Government meddling in Panama's domestic, political or state affairs. Further, he said that nonetheless, our government is highly optimistic regarding the power of understanding of the two countries linked together by the canal.

Royo and Escobar Bethancourt said that the Panamanian Government's final position will be established when the Torrijos-Carter ratification instruments are exchanged and that Panama has only two options: to accept the ratified treaties as they stand or to consider that they violate the nature of the Torrijos-Carter treaties approved by the Panamanian people during a plebiscite on 23 October 1977. For this reason, the Panamanian Government is maintaining a cautious attitude and wise prudence, Escobar Bethancourt said, and is waiting for the final results of the U.S. Senate debates.

CRITICA ON TREATY AMENDMENTS, RESERVATIONS

PA191317Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Mar 78 pp 1, 20 PA

[Text] While the nation analyses the real meaning of the word AMENDMENT--which changes the true nature of an article of the treaty and affects its essence, implying, according to some, the "rejection" of the document--and while the legal effects of the notorious "RESERVATIONS"--which is a weaker term than "amendments" but stronger than "interpretations"--are considered, the local media researches, gathers information and evaluates the scope of the U.S. Senate sessions on the Torrijos-Carter treaties.

The fruitful meeting held yesterday afternoon with treaty negotiators Romulo Escobar Bethancourt and Aristides Royo was part of this search for information. The dialog revealed thorough details on the treaty negotiating sessions and the way in which the United States views certain articles of the treaty.

This is how we found out that despite the existence of Spanish and English versions of the documents, the characteristics of our different legal systems--the Anglo-Saxon and Latin systems--have led to interpretations being made from very particular viewpoints and this, together with the idiomatic concepts, produce adverse effects in each country every time the texts are analyzed.

The necessity of making serious and thorough studies without haste, concerning what has occurred so far and what is yet to be discussed, was clearly established after the exchange of opinions. We are aware of the lack of experience of President Carter concerning the ways in which the senators operate, even those of his own party. This inexperience has been the cornerstone of the obstacles to ratification, but it has been useful since it was his "virgin" spirit which led him to materialize the negotiations. This fact must be taken into consideration because if they are not ratified in this first [as published] year of the U.S. President's term, several decades would have to pass before another president would decide to follow in his footsteps or thousands of lives would have to be lost to end definitely the American colonialist presence in our country.

For now, the DeConcini amendment can be considered to be part of the "Torrijos-Carter understanding" although it was made in bad faith. The final conclusion about its scope will be given by us later. However, that was the general conclusion. We must be prepared to hear more amendments and, especially, dozens of additional reservations being proposed with greater diatribe against Panama and its rulers since thus far we have heard very few heirs or the intelligence of a Jefferson, a Lincoln or a Benjamin Franklin.

REACTION TO TREATY RATIFICATION GENERALLY MILD

PA171850Y Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpts] Two minor demonstrations by extreme leftwing university students have been the only reaction on the part of the Panamanian people following yesterday's ratification of the first of the Panama Canal treaties which was voted on in the U.S. Senate. Aside from that, Panamanians received the news of the ratification of the neutrality pact with almost total indifference.

The Americans who live and work in the Canal Zone and had firmly opposed the new agreements also received the ratification of the neutrality pact with overwhelming apathy.

Last night, the extreme leftwing students staged a demonstration against the ratification on the campus of the University of Panama. The group of demonstrators was small, as was the demonstration staged this morning in front of the office building of the American Embassy.

Olimpo Saenz, leader of the Camilo Torres Circle, said that the important thing is not the number of participants but the essence of the protest movement against the canal treaties.

On campus last night and this morning at the U.S. Embassy, the demonstrators symbolically burned the new treaties. There was no violence reported during any of the events.

The Panamanian Government reacted by announcing that it will call a special general State Council meeting with Panamanian Ambassador in Washington Gabriel Lewis Galindo in attendance. The Panamanian Foreign Ministry revealed last night that the Council of State meeting will be held only after the U.S. Senate considers the second treaty, the one that actually refers to the Panama Canal.

One office worker explained the people's apathy toward the ratification by noting that we Panamanians feel that the conventions negotiated between the two countries do not fully meet Panamanian expectations, let alone doing so following the amendments and reservations made by the U.S. Senate.

STUDENT GROUP DENOUNCES TREATY CHANGES

PA190333Y Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 18 Mar 78 pp 1, 20 PA

[Excerpts] Members of the University Anti-imperialist Front (FAU) yesterday picketed the U.S. Embassy to protest and denounce the efforts by U.S. senators to change the political conditions of Panama [condiciones politicas de Panama] in favor of their plans of oppression.

The group issued a communique pointing out that everything indicates that the U.S. Government is maneuvering with amendments, understandings and reservations in an effort to reverse the essential gains that the Torrijos-Carter treaties provide Panama.

The FAU militants note that they will not accept ridicule of the principled position of the Panamanian people and the revolutionary government. They reject any attempt at adjusting the treaties so that the gringo government may void the return of the territory and continue its military occupation past the year 2000 and so that the rights of intervention into and [word indistinct] of our national sovereignty be recognized.

FAU states: "We know the disposition to struggle of our people. If we have to go back to the Canal Zone, we will. If we have to have another 9 January, we will, but there will be no blemish ever on the majesty of the fatherland."

The group calls on its sympathizers and friends to participate in a meeting to take place on 20 March in the students affairs director's office in order to discuss the present situation resulting from the ratification of the neutrality treaty. The meeting will take place after the political leadership of the student organization obtains over the weekend complete information on the exact contents of the amendments and reservations.

MINISTER ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF SCHOOL CLASSES

PA180210Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Televisora Nacional reporter Itzel de Rangel's interview with Panamanian Education Minister Aristides Royo on the postponement of the beginning of 1978 school classes--recorded]

[Excerpt] [Question] Minister Royo, what is the position of the Education Ministry regarding a request from student parents' clubs and teachers association to postpone the beginning of classes?

[Answer] Thank you, Itzel. As a matter of fact, the beginning of classes has been postponed until 17 April, but teachers must be at work on 10 April. This measure was taken because of innumerable requests from several student parents' clubs, teachers associations and other organizations, to postpone the beginning of classes so as to have a climate of tranquillity in the country while the U.S. Senate concludes its debates and voting on the treaties.

COMMENTATOR TERMS ESCOBAR TREATY STATEMENTS 'HASTY'

PA171715Y Panama City Radio Mia Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Commentary by Julio Ortega during the "Resumen Informativo" program]

[Text] Well, Ramoncito [station commentator Ramon Pereira Jr.], the first part of the treaties have now been ratified by the Senate. I am not sure but, personally, it seemed to me that Dr Escobar's [Romulo Escobar Bethancourt, adviser to Panamanian Chief of Government Omar Torrijos] statements yesterday, immediately after the deliberations of the U.S. Senate, were very, very hasty.

Sincerely, I am going to say that the radio broadcast was even interrupted to give the opportunity to the chief of the Information Office and information adviser of the chief of government. And I sincerely believe--this was my first reaction, and I have been analyzing things--I sincerely feel that this was a very hasty statement. In addition, I believe that he was not the proper person, in the political structure of this country, to make any kind of statement or analysis of a document with which we are not yet completely familiar, one which we have not reviewed, one which has just been approved by the U.S. Senate.

This is my very personal opinion, and I say it for the good of this country. I have been listening to what has been said. I listened to portions of the Senate deliberations, to the extent that I had time to do so, and I believe that Dr Escobar's statements were not particularly fortuitous, particularly when he referred to the attacks to which the Panamanian Government, the chief of government and the governmental structure of this country have been subjected by senators who, in their analysis of the treaty, went to the point of investigating personal matters. I think that this should have been completely set aside. Perhaps we have already forgotten--because for 10 years we have not had a parliamentary procedure--that these are all political resources used in democratic parliamentary and legislative systems.

In the first place, I believe that Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt's statements were very hasty, I would say excessively hasty. In the second place, I feel that they were unfortunate because he discussed topics which he did not have to mention since a process was already over. In the third place, at certain times he said things which he later contradicted, in view of what I heard yesterday, and it seems to me that he was not the proper person, acting as the representative of the Panamanian Government, to analyze the U.S. Senate's decision or to give explanations or guidance to our people.

Later, it was said that the Panamanian Government will officially maintain silence regarding the treaty until the second treaty is approved. When then was the reason for the rush to have a government official make a statement with regard to a topic that is very delicate at this time, to make an analysis and mention the personal attitudes of certain senators while the second portion of the treaty still remains to be approved and analyzed and while we are still not familiar with the exact content?

There are words which I would like someone in the government to explain, to tell us how they are to be interpreted. There is a word which I do not want the listeners to forget--reservation. What is the international juridical meaning of the word reservation as applied to treaties and what does it mean in the legislative procedure of the United States? What does it mean to approve a treaty with reservations? What is the meaning, in the U.S. legislative procedure, of the word amendment?

I would like us to analyze....[does not complete sentence] We no longer have to think about how we Panamanians view it. We already voted. We already accepted. But what does the word amendment mean in English, in the language of Shakespeare, in the U.S. mentality? What does reservation mean? These are two key words which have an important significance. What we Panamanians have to do here is understand the meaning of those words because I believe that we are on good ground. I believe that Jimmy Carter's victory yesterday was well won, but was won on the basis of much sweat, of much effort, of much work, of much fencing within the U.S. political structures. There were even senators who offered their votes to President Carter and told him: We will vote in the affirmative as long as our votes are the decisive ones. And there were two senators who waited until the last minute to vote.

I believe that we should realize that this treaty, which was approved here in Panama by two-thirds of the population, barely passed by two-thirds in the U.S. Senate. Therefore, the scale is completely balanced but it is subject to ups and downs in the form of acts and actions, of political ploys which could cause serious problems.

For this reason, I believe that what happened after Dr Romulo Escobar Bethancourt spoke was prudent, that is, the statement that the Panamanian Government will remain silent until the documents have been studied, and then the proper explanations made.

This morning, I want us Panamanians to reflect. Yesterday, many people were saying that we should get the day off, that there would be a carnival. It seems that at times we have no desire to work. When I suggested that the workers be given yesterday afternoon off, it was not for merrymaking. It was for us to sit down, listen and analyze so that the people would become familiar with the procedures and with what we have achieved over there, so that they come to know the conditions which were imposed. I listened to the Senate debate as much as I could, perhaps as a mental exercise in listening to what a parliamentary procedure is like, because I had forgotten it. For 10 years, there has not been a legislative system involving participation here. But I think that what happened yesterday was very important, and we Panamanians must analyze things with objectivity. We must carefully evaluate the content of the documents, carefully detect the meaning of the words because the stage of interpretation has already passed. The matter of expeditious and priority is already in the past. [as heard] Now there is a treaty which has been subjected to reforms or amendments or reservations--three words which seem to mean the same thing, but which have different meanings, different applications and which involve three different procedures for purposes of the acceptance and application of the treaties.

Let us now, therefore, sit down and meditate and evaluate what is advantageous and what is not in order to determine the course to be taken by the country, to see the good aspects of what has been achieved, to see whether it is positive or negative. And we must always keep in mind that if an agreement is not reached with the United States, the 1903 treaty, with its perpetuity clause, would remain in effect.

Therefore, we are now playing with luck against us. We have a perpetuity clause which, if no settlement is reached, will remain in effect in the country. The full support of international law will be behind the application of the decision to have the United States remain in perpetuity, behind an agreement existing in perpetuity.

Therefore, this morning, Ramoncito, after having heard so many technical words, I have a mental block, to use a term which refers to a state of mind. This block is the product of the great desire to understand, to comprehend matters and to answer questions which I cannot answer because I am not familiar with the juridical procedures, the meanings of the words as applied to treaties, because it is one thing to amend an error and it is another thing to amend a treaty. It is one thing to have reservations with regard to Ramoncito and it is another thing to approve a treaty with reservations. Although they seem to have the same meaning, they are not the same.

Therefore, there are questions which one asks oneself. For this reason, this morning I would like--with a very patriotic feeling, Ramoncito, with a feeling of civic responsibility, with the criteria of a person who wants the best for this country, with the desire of a man who loves liberty, who wants the best for his people, who wants to live in peace and who is aware that we must seek this path through a unity of criteria--to exhort not only the government but, rather, all the Panamanian people to analyze seriously and responsibly the step taken by the U.S. Senate, to urge that the modifications made to the treaty by the Senate be analyzed objectively and that it be very clearly established--and that we be informed--whether those modifications really change the content of what the Panamanian people approved in the plebiscite. It is very important that we be informed, that we know this. We have to be told by our leaders.

This is an historical process which cannot allow this ratification, which is only partial because the other treaty remains, to be used for political reasons, for propaganda, for insults or for surrender. The fate of this country now depends on the serene analysis, on the objective study of the matter and on the responsibility of the governors and the governed.

Therefore, let us stop those spectacular, marathonic and unexpected television presentations which use arguments that are unfounded and that are the result of the feelings and the state of mind of the person who is speaking at the particular moment. We must analyze each word uttered by this country, every word spoken by our government. And these words must be spoken by those who are the persons who should say them. Let us therefore expect with faith and hope that our people have matured, that our government has learned and that it will not care to expose itself, in the course of the debates on the second treaty, to as deep an analysis as that made in the first debates, in which there were personal investigations and the mention of drugs, dictatorships and many other things which in this country are really topics of great concern.

Let us therefore avoid having to go through the same thing in this new process and let us act, from now until the next document is voted on, with the seriousness, sense of responsibility and the patriotic feeling which the situation demands.

Today the newspapers are full of many reports. Some of them come from our correspondents over there--the Panamanians who are over there. Others have been sent by the international agencies which are based in the United States. There are differing criteria. Each one emphasizes what is considered most important for the country which it represents, in line with its own sense of objectivity. Therefore, from amidst this sea of information, let us extract the truth and let our government meet its responsibility by informing the people--without boasting, without spectacular manifestations, without portable [portatiles] demonstrations, without a political attitude--about the real truth, about what we must study. And let the government answer the questions which require an objective answer.

PANAMA, YUGOSLAVIA AGREE TO EXPAND COOPERATION

PA181614Y Panama City Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Panama and the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia have agreed to increase bilateral cooperation to a level in line with the needs and the possibilities of their two economies. This was one of the main results of the negotiations carried out in Belgrade between Panamanian Minister of Agricultural Development Lt Col Ruben Dario Paredes and Yugoslav authorities.

Lieutenant Colonel Paredes, who is heading a delegation of officials and businessmen of this country, met yesterday with Ivo Kustrak, president of the Yugoslav Federal Committee for Agriculture. During the meeting, it was stated that Yugoslavia is prepared to continue importing up to 30 tons of bananas from Panama. For its part, Panama arranged in Belgrade for the purchase of Yugoslav machinery and buses.

## COSTA RICA

### FOREIGN MINISTER TO ASK CONTINUED U.S. SUGAR EXEMPTION

PA172320Y San Jose Cadena de Emisoras Columbia in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] Foreign Minister Gonzalo J. Facio will go to Washington in April. He will oppose the elimination of the preferential treatment accorded to our country by the U.S. Government as far as the sugar tariff is concerned. Our country is the only nation that currently does not pay that tariff, which amounts to $40 per ton sold on U.S. markets.

### CANAL TREATY APPROVAL ELICITS FAVORABLE REACTION

PA171621Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0210 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The approval this afternoon of the first of two Panama Canal treaties signed between Panama and the United States has attracted the attention of Costa Rican public opinion. The media immediately broadcast the Senate decision and a sense of satisfaction pervaded government circles, which were attentive to the outcome and feared that a rejection could have caused an angry reaction from Panama and irreparable damage to U.S.-Latin American relations.

Costa Rican President-elect Rodrigo Carazo Odio said that today's vote is a milestone in American history and in relations among the American states. Without disguising his satisfaction, Carazo recognized the approval as an act of justice for the long struggle of the Panamanian Government and people, an act "which strengthens inter-American relations and consolidates as supreme norms of coexistence the right of nations to exercise sovereignty and respect for that sovereignty." He expressed hope that the second treaty, which transfers the Canal Zone to Panama, will be approved as the neutrality treaty was approved today. He said that the path opened by the U.S. President and Senate and the example set by Panama will constitute the inspiration for the peoples of America who are searching for peace and dialog and the attainment of their objectives.

Carazo Odio, who will take office in May, said that this was a day of joy for America. "Whenver justice triumphs, hope is strengthened and violence recedes."

Foreign Minister Gonzalo J. Facio said that it was a victory for Panama and Latin America because justice, reason and good sense have prevailed. He recalled the support which Costa Rica gave to the Panamanian demands which have been met in the treaties now before the U.S. Senate, recalling that his country was [words indistinct].

## EL SALVADOR

### NINE KILLED, 25 INJURED IN PEASANT-POLICE CLASHES

OW180644Y Hong Kong AFP in English 0641 GMT 18 Mar 78 OW

[Text] San Salvador, El Salvador, March 17 (AFP)--Nine people were killed and 25 injured today in two separate clashes between heavily-armed police and peasants attempting to march to the El Salvador Bank of Agriculture to plead for easier tenancy terms.

A police inspector and a 13-year-old boy were killed in one of the fatal clashes, which took place near San Salvador's business district.

The other occurred near the town of Apopa, some 11 kilometers (7 miles) north of the capital, where demonstrators had regrouped after being driven out of the capital.

The government blamed the incidents on unauthorized peasants' unions, which are strong in the northern part of the country.

Additional Details

PA181320Y San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The death of Inspector Felipe Alberto Barahona, the injury of Maj Ricardo (Canizales), the deaths of Kilometer 11 of five civilians who were riding in a station wagon along the northern road network in the Apopa jurisdiction, and the deaths of an 11-year-old child and an adult candy vendor almost in front of the central headquarters of the Salvadoran Red Cross in San Salvador are the result of the tragic incident which took place yesterday when a group of peasants who were demonstrating along the main streets of San Salvador headed for the Agricultural Development Bank and the Legislative Assembly to demand better land lease prices, low prices for materials needed for agriculture, and other matters related to peasants who do not own their plots of land. The demonstrators belong to the farm workers union and the Salvadoran Christian Peasants Federation, it was reported to SERCANO.

ERP CLAIMS CREDIT FOR BOMB EXPLOSIONS

PA181910Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1714 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 18 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--The clandestine Revolutionary People's Army (ERP) issued a communique today claiming credit for the explosion of 20 propaganda bombs in several parts of the capital. The communique explains that on 15 March the devices were placed in parks and other public places in order to distribute communique No 9, but it does not give any details as to the content of the message.

One of the groups placing the bombs was stopped by a patrol car of the national police. Shooting erupted, but the group was not caught, the message says.

One newspaper report said last Thursday that the incident had taken place between common criminals and policemen, but the ERP has now denied the report.

UNOFFICIAL RESULTS OF 12 MAR ELECTIONS RELEASED

PA171545Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1900 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--It was reported today that in the elections held last Sunday the rightist Salvadoran Popular Party [PPS] won eight seats in the Legislative Assembly while the government party, the National Conciliation Party (PCN), garnered 50.

Of the 849,208 votes cast for deputies throughout the country, the PCN received 766,673 and the PPSS received 82,535. The number of null votes has not yet been released.

Total votes for municipal councils was 656,669, with the PCN winning mayorial posts in 261 municipalities throughout the country.

A total of 1.8 million voters were registered with the Central Electoral Council. Of these, 47.1 percent voted for deputies and 36.4 percent for the municipal councils, according to unofficial, preliminary figures.

The center-leftist opposition made up of the Christian Democratic Party (PDC), the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR) and the Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN), which have joined together on other occasions to form the National Opposition Union (UNO), did not participate in the elections.

## GUATEMALA

### INTERIOR MINISTER ACCUSES MLN OF TERRORISM

PA182316Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1930 GMT 16 Mar 78 PA

[Excerpt] Guatemala City, 16 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--Donaldo Alverez Ruiz, Guatemalan government and interior minister, today accused the anticommunist National Liberation Movement (MLN) of being responsible for the recent wave of postelection terrorism experienced in the country. "We will jail MLN members if they continue disrupting public order," the minister said. He added that the government has proof of MLN involvement in bombing incidents in the capital.

Alvarez Ruiz stated that MLN members do not want to accept the 5 March presidential election results which ruled them out of participation in the Guatemalan Government. Consequently, they are promoting insurrection, disorders and have even asked the army to stage a coup d'etat.

## NICARAGUA

### SOMOZA COMMENTS ON POLITICAL SITUATION, OTHER TOPICS

#### Views Opposition's Plans

PA180040Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1405 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--President Anastasio Somoza suggested that the Nicaraguan opposition, which refused to enter into dialog with the Liberals (in power) about political reforms, could be considering another strike. In an exclusive interview granted to the ACAN-EFE Central American agency, Somoza said that the opinion that the proposed political reforms "have arrived too late" is "capricious."

"I do not believe that any reform comes too late when it tends to satisfy the people's demands," he added.

Somoza said that he is still willing to have a dialog with his opposition about "anything they want to discuss, to see if we can come to an understanding and reach a solution agreeable to all Nicaraguans," he said.

When he was told that the opposition has repeatedly said that it does not want a dialog with him, President Somoza replied: "Then they can have a dialog with the Liberal Party, which is the governing party. The opposition does not have to have a dialog with the government as such."

General Somoza said that those leaders speaking of dialog "lost their opportunity to overthrow the government by means of strikes and subversion."

"Now they do not want to have a dialog because they can no longer threaten the government with a strike in order to get concessions. I believe that they are not acting in good faith when they refuse to enter into dialog. I am acting in good faith," he said.

Somoza said that international publications have estimated his fortune at $1 billion. It is said that most of this sum is in foreign banks and that the rest is invested in Nicaragua. "Today one is criticized by communists and socialists for being rich. They attack politicians by saying that they are very rich. Also, the amount that my fortune has been estimated at is rather off base," he said.

He explained: "Regarding our alleged investments abroad, the Nicaraguans are our best witnesses. We have given them a decent way of life according to Nicaraguan law. For us this is greater wealth than anything that idle speculation says we have."

General Somoza also said that the National Guard will continue being loyal to him until 1981, and there is no reason to believe, as it has been said, that there are riots within it.

Somoza also commented on a phrase by opposition leader Ramiro Sacasa Guerrero, who said that "Gen Anastasio Somoza is the main recruiting agent for the Sandinist National Liberation Front."

"This is just Ramiro Sacasa's sarcastic way of saying that my government is so bad that it helps the Sandinists recruit members. He is mistaken, this is just his opinion," the president said.

President Somoza also said that "he does not take his opponents seriously" when they say that he is the main obstacle to the country's democratication process. General Somoza said: "With all due respect for my opponents' opinions, it is childish to believe that one person can decide the fate of a country. Parties and political forces work together to decide a nation's future," Somoza said adding that the Liberals "are a powerful force in Nicaragua. They also can think and express their opinions."

The president said that when his opponents ask him to resign or when they say he is the main obstacle to democracy in Nicaragua, at that time, his opponents purportedly "are carrying out democratic actions."

"Whenever the opposition criticizes me, no measures are taken against them. It is just that they believe that by removing the person around whom the Liberal Party rallies, meaning myself, they could readily oust the Liberals from power," he said.

## To Leave Office in 1981

PA172255Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1646 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 17 Mar (ACAN-EFE)--President Anastasio Somoza has denied having told a Venezuelan newsman that he will leave power only in the manner of Dominican dictator Rafael Leonidas Trujillo, "that is to say, dead." General Somoza confirmed that he had granted an interview to a correspondent of the Caracas newspaper EL MUNDO, but he denied having said the above. He also denied having said the following words, which the newsman attributes to him: "What happened to Batista or Perez Jiminez will not happen to me."

According to Somoza, "all that was made up. I did mention the right that the constitution confers me to exercise the presidency until 1981, which is something I am willing to do."

Further on, the president commented on the request that conservative leader Fernando Aguero Rocha made in Washington last week that the United States withdraw all military aid to Nicaragua. "The White House is very broadminded," Somoza noted. "It normally listens to all politicians. The U.S. Government is willing to listen to everybody, not just Dr Aguero. However, to expect his request to carry any weight is quite something else."

## Announces Central American Summit

PA172147Y Bluefields Radio Atlantico in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Central American chiefs of state will hold a presidential summit in April or May to discuss common projects and problems. Nicaraguan President Gen Anastasio Somoza made this announcement in the capital during an exclusive interview for the ACAN-EFE news agency. The Nicaraguan president did not give any details about the summit, but said that the coffee rust disease outbreak discovered in Nicaragua in November 1976, peace between Honduras and El Salvador and various aspects connected with Central America's economic integration will be discussed.

Regarding the coffee rust disease problem in Nicaragua, General Somoza said during his exclusive interview with ACAN-EFE that the Central American governments will contribute money to a fund in the Central American Economic Integration Bank, where Nicaragua will be granted loans under favorable conditions so it can fight the spreading of the disease. He said, however, that the area's heads of state should (?bear in mind) that Nicaragua has become the first frontier in preventing the spread of the coffee rust disease to other nations.

## Blames Cuba for Agitation

PA180014Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1805 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] Lima, 17 Mar (EFE)--In statements for the Peruvian magazine GENTE which were published today, Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza blamed Cuba for the agitation rocking his country. According to Somoza, "it is Cuba's brazen and senseless intervention which is encouraging the guerrillas in Nicaragua" and has led to the disorders that have been shaking the country since the assassination of LA PRENSA managing editor Joaquin Chamorro in Managua.

Somoza affirmed that he himself has publicly repudiated Chamorro's "despicable assassination" and that for this reason the assassins have been captured and tried in accordance with Nicaraguan law. Somoza also denied that his is a hard-line, paternalistic government. On the contrary, he noted, it is democratic, representative and originates with the people.

He added that Nicaragua's economic situation is better than that of its neighbors and that for this reason there is no possibility his government will be destabilized. Finally, Somoza stressed that in Nicaragua government changes occur democratically and that the ruling Nationalist Liberal Party represents stability in Nicaragua.

NORA DE JENKINS CLAIMS CREDIT FOR PEREZ VEGA KILLING

PA172223Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1720 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] In a letter addressed to SERCANO, Dr Nora Astorga de Jenkins claimed responsibility for killing Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega, member of the Nicaraguan Army's general staff. He was killed in her house on 8 March. She also identified herself as a member of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) and said she acted in line with the guidelines issued by the general leadership of the guerrilla group. She said that the plan was drawn up by Daniel Ortega, Victor Manel Tirado Lopez, a Mexican, and (Henry Ruiz).

Dr Jenkins' letter reads as follows: I want to make it known that I participated in the operation to execute lackey Gen Reinaldo Perez Vega, general in Anastasio Somoza D.'s army, as a disciplined militant aware of my duties and revolutionary commitments and subject to the rules and guidelines of our organization. No member of my family, parents, brothers, sisters, friends, civic, business or any other type of associations had any knowledge or active involvement in the planning, implementation and conclusion of the plan of action.

Dr Astorga de Jenkins also noted: After the execution, I joined my comrades of the northern front to continue fighting for the liberation of our Nicaraguan brothers. She also issued a call to pursue the struggle, the anti-Somoza struggle to topple the dictatorship.

SANDINISTS ATTACK THREE FINANCIAL FIRMS

PA181406Y Managua Radio Corporacion in Spanish 1220 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[SERCANO Network]

[Text] The Sandinist Front carried out three operations yesterday when it attacked a bank and the branch offices of two financial firms, [words indistinct] attacked a Bank of America branch office and took off with 120,000 cordobas. It was later reported in Managua that two branch offices of the Inmobiliaria de Ahorro y Prestamo were attacked in the Linda Vista residential area and in Altamira. A total of about 150,000 cordobas was stolen from the two branch offices.

Reports say that the participants in the attack on the Bank of America were three Sandinists who used a stolen vehicle to get away. In Managua the cashiers were able to see the faces of the Sandinists, who were wearing makeup and carrying light weapons.

Some 24 hours before the attacks, the Sandinist third chapter issued a communique noting that a truce would be called during the Easter season.

HAVANA CITES 'LOCAL CIRCLES' ON U.S. AID TO SOMALIA

PA172020Y Havana International Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 17 Mar 78 PA

[Text] A U.S. State Department spokesman has said that the U.S. Government is thinking of supplying military and other types of aid to Somalia and plans to urge its allies to grant similar support to that African country. To that end, the Washington government will send a high-level diplomatic mission to Mogadiscio to augment the personnel of the U.S. Embassy in Somalia in order to strengthen the U.S. position in the Horn of Africa.

Local circles believe that the United States is now trying to achieve by other means the objectives which it failed to meet by means of the Somali military aggression against Ethiopia. In addition, it has offered to replace all the equipment which Somalia lost in its war with the Ethiopian people by sending war material through Egypt, Saudi Arabia and other reactionary countries in the Middle East. By these maneuvers, our source said, the U.S. Government expects to effectively infiltrate Somalia and block the relations between the countries of the region and the USSR

On the other hand, PRAVDA, the USSR Communist Party publication, emphasizes that the Ethiopian victory in Ogaden brought peace to the people of that country through the assistance of their friends of the socialist camp.

Ethiopian Condemnation Noted

FL190026Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 78 FL

[Text] The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY today accused the United States of exacerbating the tense situation in the Horn of Africa by aiding Somalia in its territorial pretensions against Ethiopia, Kenya and Djibouti. The commentary analyzes recent declarations made by the North American State Department, in reference to U.S. willingness to grant new weapons to the Mogadiscio regime for bellicose goals.

The ETHIOPIAN NEWS AGENCY states that up to now Somalia has not publicly renounced its expansionist policy and calls attention to the possibility of a new armed aggression against Ethiopia. In its analysis the agency adds that the willingness of the United States to supply weapons to Somalia can only be considered a stimulus for a new aggression against the Ethiopian revolution and the territorial integrity of that country.

Lastly, it reiterates that the best guarantee for peace in the Horn of Africa is the total renunciation of expansionist aspirations, respect for state borders and observance of the fundamanetal principles of the UN and OAU charters.

MALMIERCA BEGINS OFFICIAL VISIT TO ETHIOPIA

For reportage on the official visit beginning 17 March of Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca to Ethiopia, including his meetings with the secretary general of the Provisional Military Administrative Council, Capt Fikre Salassie Wogderes, see the East Africa section of the 20 March Sub-Saharan Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

FIRST GROUP OF TEACHERS LEAVES FOR ANGOLA

PA180303Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Mar 78 PA

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The first group of the 732 Cuban youths that make up the Che Guevara internationalist teacher detachment has left for Angola. They will remain in Angola for a year as junior high school teachers in 12 Angolan provinces. This is further proof of Cuba's willingness to cooperate in all fields with any people or government that may need assistance.

The requirements for joining the Che Guevara internationalist teacher detachment are, among others, the following: willingness to work as teachers, personal ability, good physical and mental condition, political and moral stature, and status as a mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, geography or history student.

On the eve of their departure, the youths met with Cuban Communist Party First Secretary Fidel Castro, who expressed his assurance that they would successfully carry out their assignment. He also spoke of the importance for Angola of the educational task they will carry out.

During the farewell ceremony the youths promised to carry out their tasks with modesty, simplicity and absolute revolutionary conviction. They promised to do their best as teachers wherever the Angolan people needed them most. They stated their intention of educating their students based on Marxism-Leninism and on the spirit of solidarity, love for country and revolutionary firmness needed to build a new society.

The first group of the Che Guevara internationalist teacher detachment swore to abide by their rules of discipline, social conduct and formal education essential to all teachers. Their experience in Angola will contribute to the cultural and professional formation of these youths who, with greater efficiency, will conclude their studies upon their return to Cuba at the end of their tour in Angola.

Faithful to the example of those who fell in the revolutionary struggle of this people and in the memory of their Cuban brothers who, with their blood, helped to forge the independence and freedom of this African nation, their oath emphasizes their readiness to exchange their books for the rifle, if need be, to defend the conquests of the Angolan revolution.

In this manner, Cuba again expresses its right to answer the appeal of a sovereign and independent government and cooperate with it in the defense of their country or in the building of a new society free of the colonialist and neocolonialist chains which imperialism has imposed on it.

With its internationalist policy, Cuba does not pursue material gain of any kind. We do not seek oil, copper or iron; we simply follow the principles of our foreign policy and internationalist solidarity which we will never give up.

## Fernandez Addresses Teachers

FL171901Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Mar 78 FL

[Speech by Education Minister Jose R. Fernandez to first group of Che Guevara internationalist teacher detachment departing for Angola at "air terminal"--recorded]

[Excerpts] You, who have come from the sixth contingent [of the Manuel Ascunce Domenech teacher training detachment], form the Che Guevara internationalist detachment which is setting the precedent of being the first large group of Cuban teachers who, in an organized manner, will be providing internationalist assistance to the fraternal People's Republic of Angola.

The other day you had a lengthy, emotional and marvelous meeting with Comrade Fidel. We could not adequately repeat what he conveyed to you in simple and eloquent manner. However, there are two or three things we should like to reiterate and emphasize. The first one is that you have the principle task of teaching and conveying your knowledge and you should do it with complete loyalty, without any concession of principles, with great discipline, with a great spirit of doing your duty and with great respect. Another thing we would like to emphasize is to remind you that you are true representatives of Cuban youth and of the force of professors and education in our country, and that--in and out of the classroom, and primarily with your attitude and example--you should be true educators.

We are certain that many of the youths who are presently in grade 12 and have open offers to join the ranks of the seventh contingent of the teacher training detachment will feel motivated and see in you an example to follow because of your unselfish, worthy and internationalist attitude of going to perform your duty. Thus, since you are not the only ones, we will have sufficient numbers in the next contingents. We now have to begin selecting from the sixth contingent some 1,000 youths who are going to relieve you in Angola in a year.

At this time, on behalf of the Education Ministry management council--and I should add, all Cuban educators--we want to bid you farewell with a strong embrace and tell you that we are certain that a vanguard of Cuba's revolutionary youth is going to Angola. We are certain that we can feel proud of you and that at the end of your year of service in Angola we will certainly feel revolutionarily pride for what you will do in that period of time. We wish you all many successes which we know you will obtain with your effort and work. I hope that sometime during that period of time we can meet you over there at your destinations. Many successes to all of you. [applause]

## Arrival in Luanda

FL181840Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 Mar 78 FL

[Text] It is reported from Luanda that, flying their banner and wearing their blue uniforms, the first 120 members of the Cuban Che Guevara internationalist teaching detachment have arrived in Luanda. The youths, constituting the advance of the detachment made up of more than 700 teachers who will work in the People's Republic of Angola in the next school year, showed their great joy on arriving in that African land.

PCC Central Committee Secretariat member Jorge Risquet, Cuban Ambassador to Angola Manuel Agramonte and leaders of the Cuban civilian mission in that country were at the airport to receive the teachers. MPLA-Labor Party youth leaders who fraternized with members of the detachment were also at the airport. The Cuban teachers, who will be going to the Angolan provinces of Uige, Benguela and Lunda, are awaiting the rest of the detachment which will be arriving in the next couple of days.

ISRAELI ATTACK ON SOUTHERN LEBANON CONDEMNED

Foreign Ministry Communique

PA190111Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 78 PA

[Text] The Cuban Foreign Ministry today issued a communique stating that the Cuban Revolutionary Government expresses its most energetic protest against the Zionist aggression on Lebanon. The communique states that, with that genocidal action, the Zionist regime once again violates the UN Charter and that, in trampling upon Lebanese sovereignty and territorial integrity and massacring the civil population of that country and the Palestinian refugees, the regime poses a threat to peace and stability in the Middle East.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry communique states that Israel's genocidal policy in the Middle East can take place only with all types of support given to that regime by the United States.

Cuba will cooperate at the United Nations and at all international forums in which the international community will condemn and call for the suspension of that policy by the Israeli Zionist regime, the communique concludes.

Commentary Scores Aggression

FL190041Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 78 FL

[Orlando Contreras commentary]

[Text] Nearly 30,000 Zionist troops today continued the gradual occupation of southern Lebanon with the support of fighter-bomber aircraft, artillery and armor units, ignoring the outcry of world public opinion. While the massacre of Palestinian refugees and Lebanese civilian population continues, it has been totally shown that the Israeli aggression at first was supported by Washington, which expected it to be completed within 48 hours.

The heroic Palestinian resistance, however, changed the North American-Israeli plans. The Zionist troops today continued destroying cities in a deep penetration into southern Lebanon which apparently was not anticipated. Knowledgeable political analysts have reached the conclusion in view of the following facts:

When the Israeli aggression took place last Wednesday and civilian casualties were in the hundreds, U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance declared that his government would not ask Israel to suspend its occupation of southern Lebanon and that it would wait to see what happened. Actually, what Washington expected was that Israel would eliminate all resistance in southern Lebanon and destroy the principal Palestinian refugee centers within 48 hours. Once this was completed, talks would be convened within the spirit of bilateral negotations between Israel and Egypt, which are considered by progressive Arab countries as a flagrant betrayal of Arab interests and those of the Palestinian people.

Today, 4 days after the Israeli aggression and after world public opinion has angrily reacted to an action which violates all principles of coexistence among nations, the United States was forced to introduce in the Security Council a vague draft resolution to send UN forces to the area. At the same time, it has asked Israel to end its invasion. This has come 4 days before a meeting between President Carter and Zionist Prime Minister Menahem Begin scheduled for Wednesday in Washington.

The Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, PLO, meeting in Beirut, charged in this regard that the purpose of the aggression is occupation of all of southern Lebanon in accordance with a North American-Israeli plan which is supported by the regime of Anwar Sadat, president of Egypt.

The French communist newspaper L'HUMANITE called the aggression a coordinated effort to exterminate the Palestinian people.

Meanwhile, it has been reported from the battlefront that reinforcements for the Zionist troops have arrived. The North American news agency AP reports that the Israelis have occupied the town of Tibnin following an air attack and shelling by tanks which left most of the town in flames, thereby carrying out a new aggression with grave implications for peace throughout the Middle East.

GRANMA on U.S. Role

PA190321Y Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 19 Mar 78 PA

[Text] GRANMA, the official organ of the Cuban Communist Party, today comments that it was not until Israeli troops had killed dozens and dozens of Palestinians and Lebanese and after they had militarily occupied more than 900 square km of southern Lebanon that the U.S. Government asked the Zionist regime to withdraw its forces. It adds that the U.S. Government has not uttered one word to condemn the genocide being carried out by Israel, not one word of distress for the children, women and old people who have fallen victims to Israeli machinegun fire. This does not affect those who have armed the Zionist invaders to the teeth, the Cuban paper says.

GRANMA affirms that news reports have revealed that the modern supersonic F-15 planes which the U.S. Government delivered to Israel a few days ago are being used in the bombings and machinegun attacks against Palestinian refugee camps and Lebanese towns.

VALDES, STOYANOV SPEAK AT FRIENDSHIP MEETING

FL182247Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 18 Mar 78 FL

[Text] Division Gen Sergio del Valle, member of the PCC Politburo and minister of interior, has made the closing remarks in this capital at the main event of militant friendship with the high-level Bulgarian Internal Affairs Ministry delegation that is visiting our country. The fraternal country's delegation is headed by Col Gen Dimitur Stoyanov, internal affairs minister and member of the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee. The Bulgarian minister also spoke at the activity. Both speakers stressed the bonds of friendship which bind the combatants of the interior ministries and peoples of the two countries, who are educated under the principles of Marxism-Leninism.

The activity was presided over by members of the PCC Central Committee, Interior Ministry vice ministers, commanders and officers, and the rest of the delegation headed by Col Gen Dimitur Stoyanov.

## SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

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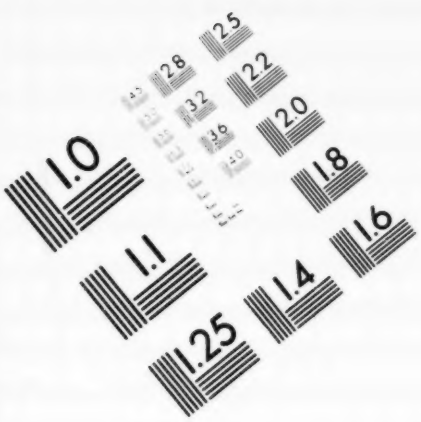


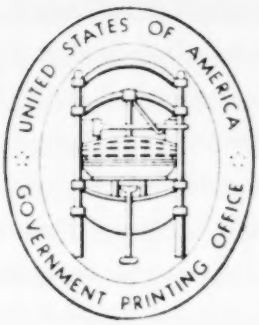


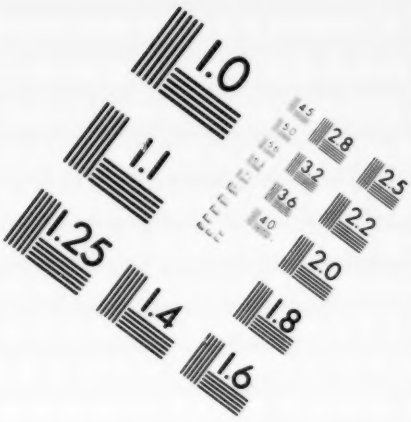


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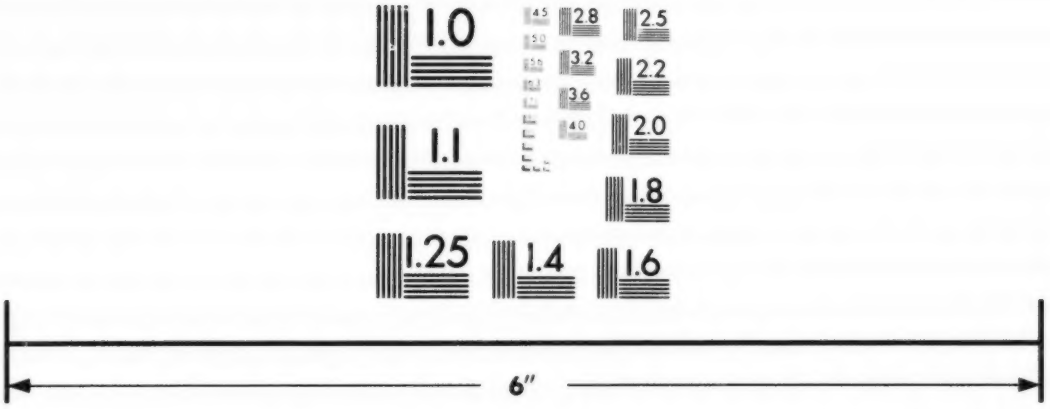

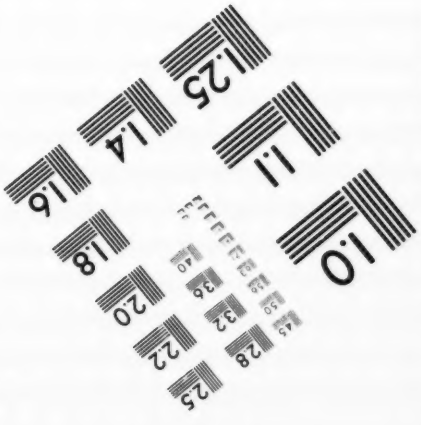


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23 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, N.Y. 14580
(716) 872-4503